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VIDELA RECEIVES LETTER FROM CHILEAN PRESIDENT

PY311814Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1420 GMT 31 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Jan--Chilean Ambassador Rene Rojas Galdames delivered a personal letter from Chilean President Augusto Pinochet to Lt Col Jorge Rafael Videla today, stated Capt Hector de Pirro, press general director of the presidency, shortly after the Chilean ambassador left Government House. Captain de Pirro said that the ambassador requested this appointment with the Argentine president yesterday, and it was arranged for today at 1030. The meeting between President Videla and Ambassador Rojas Galdames began on schedule and lasted 15 minutes.

RIGHTS INVESTIGATORS REPORT 3,472 PRISONERS

PY311307Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2253 GMT 30 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Paris, 30 Jan--Quoting a statement made to him during his stay in Argentina by Argentine Interior Minister Eduardo Harguindeguy, Adm Antoine Sanguinetti stated here today that there are 3,472 political prisoners in Argentina.

Admiral Sanguinetti told the second French television transmitter that "sixteen French, among them two nuns whose situation was recently reported here, are either detained or missing."

Upon his return from Buenos Aires, where he and other personalities investigated the respect for human rights in Argentina, Sanguinetti added that Harguindeguy promised to publish a list of all political prisoners in Argentina.

The admiral said that "this is quite important, since no one has been able to compare the list of missing persons with a list of detainees."

Regarding the French, Sanguinetti stated that the Argentine Government "said it did not know what happened to them (only 10 of them have French citizenship; the other six have dual nationality) but the Argentine foreign minister, Adm Oscar Montes, assured me that he would investigate this matter personally."

NEXT ROUND OF MALVINAS TALKS SCHEDULED

PY010155Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2240 GMT 31 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Jan--An Argentine Foreign Ministry source has reported that the new round of negotiations with the UK regarding the Malvinas Islands will be held during the second quarter of 1978. According to this same source, this meeting will be held in accordance with the joint communique issued in New York on 15 December, 1977, and the work groups to be appointed at this time will meet in February at a date which will be announced in due course.

This explanation was given because of reports published in yesterday's and today's newspapers regarding an alleged suspension on the part of the UK of the third round of negotiations. In this regard, the Foreign Ministry source stated that these rumors "lack foundation and they contribute to creating false expectations regarding the issue."

As for the participation of the islanders in the negotiations, the source reiterated the essential bilateral nature of the negotiations. It must be noted in this regard that, as has been repeated many times, Argentina does not oppose the attendance of the islanders as long as they attend the meeting exclusively as members of the UK delegation.

ADMIRAL BARBUZZI DISCUSSES FLEET'S READINESS

PY311941Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1630 GMT 31 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Mar del Plata, 31 Jan--"The naval fleet which I command is in a permanent state of readiness and is always capable of accomplishing the instructions of my superiors regarding what we have to do." This statement was made by Rear Adm Humberto Jose Barbuzzi to the local news media after inspecting units at the naval base and submarine force. Barbuzzi added that the level of training of our naval units will continue as during the past 2 years, to permit them to be at the nation's service and always ready to carry out the orders of our top-level authorities.

Regarding the group of tactical scuba divers--a unit which he also inspected--Barbuzzi stated that the group was in the best condition: "The spirit and real value of the group lies in the quality of its men. They are very specialized men who have been at their task for a long time, and because of the spirit which encourages their work, they practically cannot leave the unit once they are in it."

BRIEFS

USSR DIPLOMATS TOURING--San Juan--Nicolai Elizarov and Anatoli Kouznetsov, first and second secretaries of the Soviet Embassy in Argentina, are visiting San Juan as part of a pleasure trip to the Cuyo provinces [Mendoza, San Juan and San Luis]. They have met with acting governor Jose Romeo Escobar and conveyed the personal greetings of the Soviet ambassador to Argentina, also delivering in his name books, magazines and booklets of a historical, touristic and cultural nature on the USSR. The visitors have also submitted a note from Soviet scientists for their colleagues of the San Juan Felix Aguilar and El (?Leoncito) observatories to exchange investigations in this scientific field. [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 29 Jan 78 p 4 PY]

TWO MAGAZINES BANNED--The Spanish-language edition of MAD magazine, and the political weekly PRENSA ARGENTINA, have both been banned, it was learned yesterday. Edition No 7 of MAD was banned because of an article which it is claimed is disrespectful to the church. PRENSA ARGENTINA has been closed down, apparently for good, because "its editorial policy included the transcription of false and misleading rumours." [Buenos Aires HERALD in English 31 Jan 78 p 81 PY]

1977 TAX RECEIPTS--The General Tax Directorate [DGI] has disclosed that during 1977 the sum of 2,083,519,000,000 pesos was collected. This exceeds budget estimates by 11.8 percent and is the largest amount collected in the last 10 years. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2350 GMT 23 Jan 78 PY]

NAVY APPOINTMENTS--Vice Adm Eduardo Rene Fracassi, navy general secretary, today installed Capt (Julian Luis Montoya) as chief of the navy's Department of Public Information. (Montoya) replaces Capt Eduardo Cesar Balotta, who has been named commander of the training frigate "Libertad." [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 30 Jan 78 PY]

TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S 25 JAN OPEN LETTER

PY311435Y La Paz EL DIARIO 26 Jan 78 p 18 PY

["Letter to the People" issued on 25 January, 1978 by President Hugo Banzer]

[Text] Bolivians: In my 17 January message I called upon the political parties to prepare and sign an agreement for national pacification.

Unfortunately, the great number of parties and the acute division which characterizes the political phenomenon have prevented a more direct approach to these organizations. So, in order not to exclude anyone at all, I am addressing this letter to all the people.

Bolivia, our fatherland, is going through a decisive moment in its history, from which it can emerge strengthened by way of institutions organized by popular will, or weakened because of the impossibility of implementing a reasonable political action. The alternatives are clear: Either creative democracy, or chaos.

The formation of a modern nation-state requires collective effort which, stemming from actual realities which show the degree of evolution of the country, can allow us to make gradual changes until we achieve the ideal situation which we want. It is impossible to solve in a short time the problems which have accumulated throughout our history. It is also difficult to issue measures which will equally please the different sectors and tendencies of the community. Democratization must be understood as a process of successive and careful advances.

No sector or entity will be able, by itself, to carry out fully the tasks needed in this stage of qualitative transition. The goal is to lay the essential basis for Bolivia to overcome instability, coups and partisan individualism. This can be achieved only with the help of all political parties, of peasants of labor, professional, student, business and civic organizations.

At this moment, more than ever, when we can substantially improve the system of categories, principles, norms and institutions which characterize the historical quality of the state, and when Bolivia is in a position to place itself in a leading position in the continent, it is a duty to implement a means for peace and understanding through dialog, reciprocity, mutual concessions, good sense and calm.

The Bolivian Government of the armed forces, despite antidemocratic currents and interests, believes that 1978 is the year when Bolivia must be constitutionalized. The plan which is being implemented in this regard demands certain basic requirements which are the responsibility of all the country. These requirements include among others:

1. Maintaining social peace through united and shared action, so that each man, each group, each political party can have the freedom needed to think calmly and act without fear.

2. Stability, interpreted as basic for lasting principles, norms and laws, is an essential requirement to delineate rights and duties of both the society and the people. To create or to change laws because of circumstantial and changing interests of political tendencies is not appropriate, since it weakens the legal bases of the state.

3. Violence is another factor which we should overcome, with the intention of finally excluding it from our methods of social action. Bolivia demands a political interplay based on the confrontation of ideas, the use of arguments which can be proven true, the wielding of data and documents which are sufficiently valid. Violence, which is inherent in plotting, arbitrariness and posturing, should be banished. Let us leave hatred behind us and create an atmosphere of mutual tolerance.

4. Politics is a characteristic human element, both as art and as science. There is an urgent need to change the basic concepts of its theoretical expressions and practical achievements. We can now correct our habits of improvisation, simplification and irrationality.

The armed forces government and certainly the whole country wish to have strong and homogeneous political organizations, able to gain the confidence of the people. Let us overcome excessive splintering and provide room for the unity of similar currents, which can become worthy alternatives for the Bolivian people.

5. The maturity achieved by community permits us to institutionalize dialog, which again implies an ability to have relationships of mutual concession. No dialog can be held if one starts from the supposition that one has the privilege of being right, or assuming that all that others have done is wrong.

A minimum of intellectual honesty compels us to judge events in their specific historical circumstances, because from an ideal point of view all human works are liable to criticism, but can also be improved.

In conclusion, the armed forces government is willing to carry out the legal-political transformations which are necessary to give the constitutionalization process the greatest possible degree of legitimacy. Legal modifications will be introduced which agree with the characteristics of the country, and innovations will be brought in which enrich legislation and customs.

We will do all that is necessary for Bolivia to be a democratic nation, beyond sectarian interests, prejudices and myths. We are in agreement with reason and history.

To summarize, the armed forces government proposes to the Bolivian people:

1. To strengthen social peace through unified action;
2. To maintain legal-institutional stability;
3. To reject all forms of violence;
4. To change the basic concepts of political activities;
5. To institutionalize dialog; and
6. To carry out, carefully and progressively, all transformations which are necessary to establish a genuinely democratic system.

With regard to the proposals which have been made and in view of the fact that the present situation of the political parties does not make them capable of representing all the population, every person and every organization has a right to express an opinion and take a position in agreement with its convictions.

Bolivia is now a prominent nation in the continent. Let us maintain that position through a collective, calm, mature and steady effort. Nothing is impossible when the peoples make their decisions, unite, and struggle with the certainty of being victorious.

Parties Reply to Letter

PY312323Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 27 Jan 78 p 19 PY

[Text] Representatives of the country's most important political parties promulgated a message "To the Bolivian People" which is an answer to President Banzer's "Letter to the People."

The document, dated 26 January, 1978, in La Paz, bears the signature of Edwin Rodriguez and Guillermo Jauregui for the MNR; Victor Quinteros and Mario Calderon for the PRA; Guillermo Aponte for the PS; Gonzalo Romero and Oswaldo Barriga for the MAN; Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, former constitutional president of the nation; Remo di Natale for the PIC; Luis Pelaez Rioja for the MNRI; and Benjamin Miguel and Felix Vargas for the PDC.

The document states the following:

For the purpose of contributing to the democratization of the country, the parties and individuals signing this document have broadmindedly and patriotically examined the nation's president's letter, calling for a dialog conducive to the creation of a climate of peace. The political parties deplore the lack of true intent and the sudden change of mind of the government of the armed forces which have invalidated the purpose of such a dialog.

In the "Letter to the People" signed by President Hugo Banzer Suarez, president of the armed forces' government, on 25 January, 1978, we read the following:

"...The great number of parties and the acute division which characterizes the political phenomenon have prevented a more direct approach to these organizations."

That argument is surprising since it reflects an attitude contrary to all organized political activities on the part of the government, an attitude which had been materialized in the decree imposing a recess on all political parties and replacing them with some progovernment economic pressure groups within private enterprise, as well as giving guidance and financial support to some phantom political "parties." Party acronyms are coming off the official assembly lines, for the purpose of creating division and anarchy within the authentic political organizations which channel public opinion.

The transition from dictatorship to democracy requires an environment of freedom and respect for human rights; of freedom to dialog, not to create anarchy and disorder.

Contrasting with statements in the "Letter to the People," the government's actions constitute a veiled threat and an effort to frighten the citizenry and democratic organizations. Those actions tend to choke off the free expression of ideas, proposals and disagreements. Consequently, the opening in the labor sector is not genuine because, although freedom to organize labor unions has been granted by decree, the police have kept grassroots delegates from peacefully meeting in their own headquarters. Moreover, the truth has been distorted by attributing acts of vandalism and attacks to labor unions which never perpetrated them, and a suit has been filed against the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB]. [paragraph continues]

The government has again ordered the so-called "coordinators" to resume their job of intervention and to prepare rigged elections, thus distorting the process of democratization in the labor movement. All these actions constitute serious errors and provocations to the labor organizations, which are not in keeping with the government's proclaimed intention of creating a climate of "peace, order and work".

There cannot be any stability if the country is led into situations of conflict as the result of abuses. This is another contradiction between the merely declamatory statements and the acts of the government.

It is said, however: "Violence is another factor which we should overcome, with the intention of finally excluding it from our methods of social action. Bolivia demands a political interplay based on the confrontation of ideas, the use of arguments which can be proven true, the wielding of data and documents which are sufficiently valid. Violence, which is inherent in plotting, arbitrariness and posturing, should be banished. Let us leave hatred behind us and create an atmosphere of mutual tolerance." (From the Letter to the People).

There have occurred, in connection with the hunger strike, sacrilegious attacks against churches, and anonymous organizations have been promoted which specialize in insulting and reviling eminent prelates and political personalities of the country.

It is announced that a trial will be opened against retired military men of the Topater Group. The military regulations cannot be discriminatorily applied, because there are military men on active service who have made political statements on behalf of each one of the forces, as a military institution, without having received any punishment or, much less, any indictment. The law is general and impersonal and does not allow privileges, as it is said in a juridical aphorism.

Public and social newsmedia are restrained and a monopolistic apparatus is organized to funnel information and control its distortion in accordance with government plans.

Let us hope that the desire of the universities of the country to regain their institutionalization and autonomy is respected.

It is said: "To create or to change laws because of circumstantial and changing interests of political tendencies is not appropriate, since it weakens the legal bases of the state." (From the Letter to the People). In reply to this statement, the parties say that the full validity of the constitution is no circumstantial interest, but rather the basis for all civilized coexistence. The validity of decrees, contrary to the constitution and dictated by the de facto government because of transitory interests, is not suitable for the pacification and democratization of the country. The only way of achieving pacification and the organization of a democratic regime is to have a fully valid constitution, which demands the repeal of those decree-laws and simple decrees which have violated the principles set forth in the constitution.

In the coming year of 1979 it will be a century since Bolivia was dispossessed of its seacoast, and that anniversary should find a united country, led by its best men and teams, with a consistent foreign policy watching over the sacred interests of the fatherland. This may become a reality if the constitution and human rights are respected.

La Paz, 26 January, 1978.

PEREDA REPORTEDLY SEEKS CENTER-RIGHT FRONT

PY311833Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1632 GMT 31 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 31 Jan--It was reported here today that Gen Juan Pereda, candidate for the coming general elections on 9 July, is making consultations for the formation of a center-right civilian front. Pereda is the only officially proclaimed candidate for the general elections, the first in Bolivia since 1966.

There is no report on the appearance of other candidates, but there are increasing rumors that the left continues its negotiations for forming a broad united front under the candidacy of former President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

ARMED FORCES BACK DEMOCRATIZATION, ELECTIONS

PY311824Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 27 Jan 78 p 1 PY

[Communique issued 26 January in La Paz by the commander in chief of the armed forces]

[Text] The commander in chief of the armed forces, aware of the armed forces' present historical responsibility to the people, reaffirms the armed forces decision to support the country's present democratization process, so that the elections scheduled for July, 1978, can be carried out.

In line with the government of the armed forces' expressed decision to achieve national peace through spiritual disarmament and constructive dialog, the armed forces hopes that during the coming elections the Bolivian people will demonstrate to Latin America and the world their democratic and civic maturity by supporting the nationalist process, which should allow us to continue the nation's economic development, the result of the armed forces serenity and the Bolivian people's deep patriotism.

It is also the intention of the armed forces to demonstrate their unwavering support for General Banzer, because by supporting him the armed forces demonstrate their conscious decision to move toward great national objectives.

GENERAL SAYS MILITARY WILL NOT BACK CANDIDATE

PY311827Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Jan 78 p 5 PY

[Excerpt] Gen Victor Gonzalez, chief of the joint chiefs of staff, has stated that the armed forces maintains its firm position of carrying out the country's democratization process which will be topped off by July, 1978 general elections.

He also said that the military institution will not propose or support any candidate, since its mission is strictly military.

General Gonzalez made these remarks last night when he came to Government Palace to participate in the regular Tuesday cabinet meeting.

CONSERVATIVES PROCLAIM BETANCUR SOLE LEADER

PA290410Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Presidential candidate Belisario Betancur today advocated economic independence in the exploitation of oil resources. He said that the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL] must process the crude without the participation of foreign capital. The political leader noted, however, that as long as we do not have sufficient economic and technical resources we will continue having foreign capital. Betancur said that it sounds more appealing to tell the people that everything must be exploited only by Colombians. That is the way it should be, he said, but only when we have the necessary financial and technical resources. Since we do not have them right now, he added, we cannot sit down and wait; we would only be harming the present generations and that would not be fair. So let us have foreign capital, but let us always make the decisions.

Belisario Betancur stated that there should be no foreign participation in decision making, because otherwise the country could be paralyzed by gas distributors who at any given moment might decide not to distribute the fuel in order to exert pressure, or for any other reason.

The Conservative Party's [PC] Ospina-Pastrana sector today proclaimed Belisario Betancur as the single PC leader whether he wins or loses the presidential elections.

Former Minister (Castor) Jaramillo (?Arrubla) has said that Misael Pastrana Borrero will remain as PC leader until the 26 February elections, but afterwards, the sole leader will be Belisario Betancur. The former foreign minister said Pastrana will support Betancur, adding that Pastrana will not deprive Betancur of any support for the leadership of his party.

Dr Betancur, with the authority he will have as the sole candidate and as PC leader, will see how he can help to solve our problems of division so we can go united to the June elections, the former Risaralda governor said.

POLICE MAINTAIN CONTROL OF MUNICIPALITY IN WAKE OF VIOLENCE

PA271944Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The army and the police force maintain complete control over the municipality of Yumbo, where confrontations with the public forces have occurred over the past 4 days. Armando Hurtado Bedoya, secretary of government of the department, has called a meeting of civic and political leaders for this afternoon to study the situation. The curfew will continue to be in effect from 2000 tonight to 0500 tomorrow. Since the beginning of the disturbances, 76 people have been arrested. The students protest was sparked by the possibility that Marxist rector Ernesto (Vako Choez) of the (Mayor Liso) High School might be replaced.

M-19 ATTACKS HYDROELECTRIC PLANT, OFFICIALS ARRESTED

PA282255Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The self-styled M-19 group, a leftist subversive movement, today carried out two bold and surprising simultaneous raids in the towns of Dos Quebradas, Risaralda Department, and (Ritama), Boyaca Department.

In Dos Quebradas, five persons exploded a bomb in the Libare hydroelectric plant that seriously damaged equipment. The seditious elements attacked at approximately 0300. They gagged the plant's two watchmen and then identified themselves as members of M-19. They then placed the bomb.

In (Ritama), four persons wearing hoods seized a (Sofasa) company bus carrying some workers and relieved the workers of their money to finance their subversive campaign, according to the police. The criminals harangued the people and distributed M-19 propaganda material containing a death threat against the company's industrial relations director, whom they have made responsible for the labor conflict in the factory. The four men then fled.

Today seven persons were arrested by the police under suspicion of being accomplices of the self-styled M-19 group that this morning attacked the Libare hydroelectric plant installations in Dos Quebradas.

F-2 and police agents trained in antiurban guerrilla operations today went to Dos Quebradas to begin an investigation. The authorities have reported that electrical services were not interrupted by the bomb that damaged the hydroelectric plant.

City Officials Arrested

PA282256Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Preira--Seven persons have been arrested in connection with the investigation being carried out here as a result of the terrorist attacks on the Dos Quebradas water lines and the Libare hydroelectric plant. Dos Quebradas alderman and council treasurer Marco Fidel Ortiz, Jose Elver Rojas Sanchez, Jaime Montalve and Ramon Elias Duque Pulverin--the San Judas neighborhood social committee coordinator--are among those arrested. They are leaders of the Popular Unity Front [Frente por la Unidad del Pueblo]. The four persons could be released after they make statements under oath, official sources reported. The four men were arrested as they finished painting a poster for their movement at the precise site where the bomb that damaged the pipeline exploded.

The Regional Security Council is meeting with Governor Carlos Arturo Angel Arango, who has told Radio Cadena Nacional he doubts the M-19 carried out the attack. He did not dismiss political motives for the attack.

Watchmen Jose Antonio Orozco Osorio and Pedro Nel Marin Norena, who had their hands and feet tied after being forced to close a pipeline, were released by the police after making their statements.

They said that in addition to the five persons wearing hoods, there were at least eight other persons who did not hide their faces; they, however, did not enter the hydroelectric plant.

DURAN BALLEN NAMED CANDIDATE OF CONSTITUTIONALIST FRONT

PA3115452 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Constitutionalist National Front last night approved the presidential candidacy of architect Sixto Duran Ballen, current mayor of Quito, who will resign in the course of this week from his post. Duran Ballen won 8 of 9 votes after the Liberal Party and the Popular Action Front left the meeting of the Constitutionalist National Front.

The voting was held following a meeting of the Political Bureau. After the candidacy was approved, Duran went to the meeting to accept the nomination and express his appreciation.

Voting in favor of Duran Ballen were the following parties: the Conservative Party, the Social Christian Party, the Ecuadorean Nationalist Revolutionary Action [ARNE], the Guevarista National Party, and the following groups: Ecuadorean Democratic Action [ADE]; the Ecuadorean Revolutionary Alliance [ARE]; and the Front of the Republican Left, the Socialist Party, led by Eduardo Morales, gave its vote to Carlos Cuevas, but after the 14 points which it proposed were unanimously accepted for inclusion in the political platform, it accepted Duran's nomination and two of its leaders joined the commission which went to inform Duran Ballen of his selection.

Initially, a meeting of the Political Bureau was held from 1830 to 2100. It was attended by Francisco Huerta Montalvo, Rodrigo Suarez Morales, Eduardo Morales, Manuel Araujo and Benjamin [surname indistinct]. Afterward, a joint meeting of the front was held.

The liberals suggested that Duran Ballen renounce the candidacy to make way for a new slate, noting that this had been done by Jaime Acosta, of Ecuadorean Democratic Action, and Raul Clemente Huerta. This suggestion was not accepted. In his letter of renunciation, Raul Clemente Huerta said that he supported the unity of the front.

Before leaving, Francisco Huerta, [name indistinct] Montalvo, [name indistinct] and Manuel Araujo Hidalgo addressed the gathering. Francisco Huerta said that several statements made by him had been distorted. (Alteza) made cordial remarks, while Araujo Hidalgo mentioned ideological beliefs.

Persons who attended the meeting said that no (?tension) had been noted and that the atmosphere was rather calm and friendly.

The delegation which informed Duran Ballen of his selection was made up of (?Fidel Ponce) Jaramillo, Edilberto Bonilla, (Gilvaro Lang), and Jose [surname indistinct].

The candidate, Duran Ballen, arrived at 2300 at the home of Luis Rosania Davila, of the Ecuadorean Democratic Action, where a news conference (?was held).

After being notified of his selection as candidate, Sixto Duran Ballen, an architect, said the following: [begin recording in progress] the fact that this group of nine parties and movements, which includes several center-leftist parties, in my opinion demonstrates the sincerity of the members of the front to create an authentic platform of unity [concentracion], to create an authentic effort to mobilize human talent, wherever it may be found, in any political group, with the sole objective of reviving and strengthening the fatherland, and channeling it toward maximum progress.

I would like to add, moreoever, that I am acquainted with some proposals presented by the Socialist Party and other center-leftist parties and that I share their views, because their positions also are held by the other parties. They are positions which all democratic parties should hold if they wish to solve the problems of a developing country such as ours.

I would like you to allow men, in a few days, to again call together the communications media, to make a definitive statement, after I have presented my resignation to the municipal council and after the council has considered it and, taking into account the importance of my present plans, has determined the best date for me to relinquish my functions as mayor of the city of Quito, a post which I have held for almost 8 years.

In addition this will make it possible for other political groups which share our concerns to join the front, so that together we may try to unite in a true expression of national unity, in order to solve the problems of the fatherland. [end recording]

HURTADO DEMANDS JARRIN'S RESIGNATION

PA311746Y Quito Cadena del Triu fo in Spanish 1255 GMT 31 JAN 78 PA

[Text] It is said that idle hands are poor companions, but in politics, it is (?otherwise). In fact, the leaders of several political groups took advantage of the 15 days of idle time given them by the government to draft the documents that will make it possible for them to establish a new party that will include them as well as other political sectors.

The politicians who enjoyed this constructive time in the Reten El Inca prison were Julio Cesar Trujillo, of the Progressive Conservative Party; Oswaldo Hurtado of the Christian Democrats, and Luis Gomez Izquierdo, of the Democratic National Union. They had been sentenced by the police intendent of Pichincha to 15 days in prison because of their propaganda activities during the 15 January referendum, when a ban on such activity was in effect.

The politicians were released early Monday morning by order of the chief of political security, although the order for their release was issued 10 hours later by [words indistinct]. After leaving the prison, Julio Cesar Trujillo said: [begin recording] We have been able to make good progress in the preparation of the basic documents of the new political force--the bylaws, the party platform [ideario] and the government program.

[Question] What will be the status [word indistinct] this new party announced by the Progressive Conservatives and the Christian Democrats?

[Answer] The declaration of basic principles, or if you wish, the party platform, has been submitted for the consideration of two organizations or political parties--the Conservative Party and the Christian Democratic Party--as well as other organizations which have been working with us recently. The platform outlines the orientation and the political line of the new party. We could say that it consists of some of the basic principles that will identify it, while establishing its differences from other political parties.

We believe that Ecuador needs a profound and radical transformation of its socioeconomic structures, as well as of its juridical-political institutions. This transformation, this change, is necessary to create in Ecuador the social, economic, cultural and political conditions by which Ecuadoreans can find the means for their self-fulfillment.

We therefore advocate a profound and radical transformation within the democratic and libertarian institutions of the Ecuadorean people.

[Question] In your opinion [words indistinct] compatible with the union of these ideologies?
[Answer] The different political organizations, to the extent that they share these ideological principles, are capable of forming a single political force--a single political party.

[Question] Doctor, it has been noted that to say Popular Democracy, as this new party will be called, is the same as saying snowy white.
[Answer] [Words indistinct] and this will be the name that the new party will have: Popular Democracy. To those who are well versed in languages and linguistics, especially those familiar with Greek, it might seem so. But to the Ecuadorean people, Popular Democracy will have a special meaning: The replacement of the merely formulistic and representative democracy which existed in Ecuador to date, and by virtue of which the people have had no more participation in political decisions than that of going to the polls during elections to cast their vote. In contrast to this, we advocate a democracy in which the people, duly organized, will be able to participate, not only in the election of their rulers, but also in the making of the most important juridical and political decisions, while also participating in the production and distribution of the economic, social and cultural assets that Ecuadorean society offers to its members and components. [end recording] For his part, Oswaldo Hurtado criticized the policy of repression of Government Minister Col Bolivar Jarrin and called for his resignation.

[Begin recording] I have been concerned about certain reports in the newspapers that substantial amendments will be made to the constitution. If the government does this, it will be making a mockery of public opinion and the people's will which was expressed on 15 January. On 15 January, the Ecuadorean people approved a constitution. And although, by means of a government maneuver, this constitution will go into effect only after the inauguration of the new president, all Ecuadoreans who have any common sense know that these constitutional provisions--desired, approved and chosen by the people--cannot be replaced by others by means of an electoral law, as today's newspapers report and as has been reported over the past few days. To me, and to other political leaders, it is surprising to observe the mockery that is being made of the country and the people by the dictatorship.

[Question] In any case, doctor, to refer specifically to the imprisonment to which you have been subjected, do you feel that it was just?
[Answer] For some time, the government ministry has become the ministry of errors. Col Jarrin Cahuenas is becoming increasingly less a minister of politics and more a minister of police and of prisons. Political leaders, educators and labor leaders, through ad hoc decrees containing specific charges, have been persecuted and imprisoned. Therefore, Col Jarrin Cahuenas does not represent a guarantee of the continuation of the democratization process in Ecuador and the Christian Democratic Party has resolved to take every possible action to have the minister of police replaced in the fastest possible time. Minister Jarrin cannot remain in that post, if a democratic government in Ecuador is to become a reality. [end recording] The decision of these politicians will be (?endorsed) by their followers who have organized a meeting of solidarity to be held in the next few hours. Meanwhile, another political leader who was arrested for propaganda activities, Asaad Bucaram, a presidential candidate, will be released on Saturday after serving a sentence of 20 days in prison.

STROESSNER INTERVIEWED BY JORNAL DO BRASIL

PY3102587 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 Jan 78 p 4 PY

[Undated JORNAL DO BRASIL interview with Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner by Jose Neumanne Pinto]

[Text] Asuncion--JORNAL DO BRASIL: In most Latin American countries you are seen as a follower of a personalist style of power of such statesmen as Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia and Marshal Francisco Soland Lopez. Is this true?

Answer: It is a great honor for me to be considered heir--as you said--of such statesmen as Dr Jose Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia and Marshal Francisco Solano Lopez, whom you defined as "rulers with a personalist style of power." History has already made its irrevocable decision regarding these distinguished men. Each period in the life of a people needs and demands a leader, a guide or a ruler which the period or circumstance demands. I am neither a follower nor a heir of those eminent figures of our national history, but I do have a profound respect and great admiration for all those who turned this land into a great nation. The Paraguayans and we the current leaders, and before us, a great illustrious statement, Bernardino Caballero, are inspired by the courage, patriotism, dignity and wisdom of our most outstanding men. As a stateman, the goal of my dearest aspirations is the happiness and wellbeing of my people. Regarding my ideals, they are those of my party, the Colorado Party, an eminently democratic and nationalist party.

JB: In view of another 5-year term, are you not thinking of a successor yet?

Answer: If I have been the president of Paraguay for almost 25 years, it is only and exclusively because it was and is the desire of almost all the Paraguayan people. The people and nobody else elect their rulers. And this has been happening ever since the National Republican Association--the Colorado Party--the largest and strongest Paraguayan political democratic force, of which I am a member--constitutionally and legally assumed the responsibility of ruling the future of the nation. Therefore, it is the Paraguayan people who, in time and by its own and spontaneous will, will decide who will continue with this task of governing.

JB: Speaking of presidential succession, how do you feel about the decision on the presidential succession in Brazil, regarding the appointment of Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, head of the National Intelligence Service [SNI]?

Answer: The Paraguayan policy, and that of its government, is based on steadfast respect--which we also demand from others--for decisions of all nations and of their governments. Any decision regarding their own institutional life is their own private business. General Figueiredo is indeed a personal friend of mine whom I admire and to whom I wish new success in his professional career, but it is still early to predict the events. General Figueiredo did an excellent job in Paraguay in 1955-56 as a member of the Brazilian Military Mission, leaving happy memories behind because of his efficiency and affection toward my people. It would be appropriate to say, however, that Paraguay and Brazil, within a sound and frank policy of cooperation, will not overlook the solutions to any problem which might conceivably emerge.

JB: Regarding the Parana River, Paraguay has been charged with carrying out a "pendular" policy with Brazil and Argentina. What has Paraguay to say about this, to defend itself from this kind of charges?

Answer: Paraguay's foreign policy is spotless, and what is gratuitously attributed to it is nonsense and groundless. We neither accept nor will ever accept having us sit in the defendant's seat. My government, which is the will of the Paraguayan people, acts in accordance with the superior interest of the nation, according to Paraguayan standards, decisiveness and thinking, without disregarding the peaceful integration and coexistence among friendly and brotherly peoples.

JB: How do you see Paraguayan-U.S. relations after Terence Todman's visit to Paraguay?

Answer: That Paraguay is a sovereign nation, responsible for its own future; that its government, whose presidency I have the honor to be holding, is a democratic, republican and representative government which had emerged from the ballot boxes after a legal and loyal electoral contest, thanks to the will of most of the Paraguayan people, whose genuine representative is the Colorado Party, the most powerful concentration of free men who have a free nation; that Paraguay is a country which lives in peace and justice, within a state of law which is in accordance with our national constitution.

JB: How does Paraguay view the influence of President Jimmy Carter's foreign policy in changing and opening the autocratic regimes in South America? How do you place Paraguay within that picture?

Answer: My government is not authoritarian. I strongly emphasize that it is a democratic and representative government with authority which acts in accordance with the national constitution. President Jimmy Carter knows our points of view very well, and I personally told him about our views at the meeting we held at the White House in September, 1977, during my visit to that friendly country.

JB: What is the position of Paraguayan foreign policy regarding President Carter's human rights policy and the United Nations trying to interfere to defend these rights?

Answer: The much-publicized subject of human rights, the Trojan horse of international communism, deserves only one answer from us: All rights, whatever they are, are respected by my government according to the law and witout discrimination. In addition, and this must be quite clear, we are not going to tolerate, and we have never tolerated, the disturbing of peace, tranquillity and order in the country in the name of "HUMAN RIGHTS". These are fundamental human rights of the Paraguayan people.

JB: From that point of view, what did you think of Chilean President Augusto Pinochet's plebiscite?

Answer: When I answered your third question (regarding presidential succession in Brazil), I answered this.

JB: How do you and Paraguay view the recent proposals for continental integration included in the joint declaration issued by Presidents Carlos Andres Perez and Ernesto Geisel and Presidents Geisel and Lopez-Portillo?

Answer: Paraguay was one of the first, if not the first, to propose and promote the idea of Latin American integration. This has always been a concern and interest of my government, and the appropriate organizations have precise instructions to pay maximum attention to it.

JB: What is the economic future of Paraguay as a landlocked nation? To what degree do its powerful neighbors Brazil and Argentina influence that future? Have the interests of those countries, which have been termed imperialistic, damaged Paraguay's development?

Answer: We are optimistic regarding the future of our country. Its "lanklocked position" will by no means restrict its future, because the Paraguayan people and their leaders have made the irrevocable decision to make it greater and more progressive with their fruitful work and their example of patriotism. Our landlocked position, as far as it means the lack of an outlet to the sea, is a fact we face by opening roads, creating air, river and maritime fleets, and using the great creative and working spirit of my good countrymen. The "powerful neighbors" you mentioned are friendly, as we are. And friendship is not a meaningless word in Latin America.

JB: Then how does Paraguay view the Bolivian demand for an outlet to the Pacific, and what is its position regarding having its own chance for an outlet to the sea?

Answer: We speak about "Latin American integration." Within this context, all questions which worry or concern nations of our continent will find, I hope, satisfactory solution.

JB: Will Paraguay become an exporter of electricity in this continent through Itaipu?

Answer: The great projects with which Paraguay is committed with its neighboring and friendly countries place my country in a privileged position. The possibilities are really exceptional, and they will undoubtedly change the socioeconomic future of my country.

14 GENERALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT, TO RETIRE FROM ARMY

PA311549Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1401 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 30 Jan (AFP)--It was announced here today that Peruvian President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez is among the 14 army generals who will retire today after 35 years of service. Morales Bermudez, who entered the Chorrillos Military Academy on 1 February, 1943, forming part of the "Mariscal Nieto" graduating class, will continue leading the country as chief of state.

Prime Minister Gen Guillermo Arbulo, another important member of the graduating class, will also retire, turning over his post to Gen Oscar Molina Pallochia, current president of the armed forces joint command.

Molina Pallochia, who has filled important military and political posts such as chief of the Advisory Committee of the Presidency (COAP), president of the Superior Council of Intelligence and commander general of the First Military Region, will also take office tomorrow as war minister and army commander general.

Gen Pedro Richter Prada will replace General Molina Pallochia as president of the armed forces joint command. Richter Prada, former interior minister, is currently chief of the army general staff. He will maintain this post in accordance with a military decision.

This change of military posts will occur tomorrow during a special ceremony at the War Ministry, which President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez will attend.

President Praised on Retirement

PY311812Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The Peruvian Army, during a solemn military ceremony held yesterday, said farewell to the Mariscal Nieto class members. Gen Jorge Molina Pallochia, as the oldest general on active duty and starting today the new army commander, delivered a speech. The members of that class who attended the ceremony were the president, Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez, and Gen Guillermo Arbulu Galliani, who until yesterday was prime minister, war minister and army commander.

During his speech, General Molina particularly referred to General Morales Bermudez, to his great ability as a soldier in carrying out the functions of the presidency during which he has always shown perseverance, responsibility, equilibrium and great tact at all the difficult times which normally occur in political situations in a country like ours, which is experiencing a process evolving toward a new society, and which is seeking the unity of all Peruvians with the purpose of building together a better future.

General Molina said that this brilliant class, faced with the responsibility of seeking a better future for all Peruvians, has not only fulfilled well the hard demands of a military career but has also carried out its duties in a historic situation which the armed forces could not avoid. The future of the nation was at stake and therefore the armed forces had to participate by holding several positions of responsibility in this authentically Peruvian revolutionary process of a real humanistic nature and profound changes, in which the army as well as the other institutions is committed to seeking a better destiny for the future of Peru.

General Molina said that the members of the Mariscal Nieto class were aware of their responsibility to guide the national destiny toward a more just, fraternal and healthier government.

General Molina also pointed out General Morales Bermudez' dignified and exemplary 35-year active duty military career, emphasizing his military virtues as the leader of the revolutionary process.

General Molina Pallochia said: We are really happy that on 22 April of last year the revolutionary junta, in accordance with its powers and thoroughly interpreting the feelings of the armed and police forces, agreed that General Morales Bermudez should continue as president of the republic after his retirement from the military until the objectives of the Tupac Amaru plan--the true expression of the feelings of the armed forces--are fulfilled. He also said that General Morales Bermudez' revolutionary process will continue to get all the necessary support to help the president accomplish his most important mission.

Then, Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez spoke as a farewell from military active duty. He reaffirmed his faith and those of his class in a free, sovereign and great nation, a common home for all Peruvians united as brothers. President Morales Bermudez delivered his speech on the parade ground of the Chorrillos Military School in the name of the members of the Mariscal Nieto class, at the closing of a military career which began on 24 December, 1942.

Morales Bermudez expressed his deep appreciation to those who--using his own words--"knew how to teach us the virtues that a good soldier must develop." He also made a call to the new class to meditate deeply on the meaning of the military oath. He said: We hope that the judgment of history will recognize our successes more than our mistakes, the positive more than the negative, [words indistinct]. This was the last part of his speech, after an evaluation of the actions carried out by the members of his class.

The president recalled how they arrived [words indistinct], the time they began school, their assignments from one garrison to another. He said: This is where we are after 35 years, on a date when we have to say farewell to active duty, to leave the army as stipulated by law. On this parade ground of our Chorrillos Military School and facing our national hero Colonel Bolognesi [who defended Arica in 1880], we can proudly and without vanity say: We have accomplished our mission, colonel, and with the hope that [words indistinct] we will get your approval.

Addressing the members of the Lt (Luis Garcia Ruiz) class who have just graduated, Morales Bermudez advised them to always keep in mind that the military life is full of sacrifices, sleepless nights and even disappointments and despair. He said, however, that because of the training in school and the maturity they will earn in the years to come, they will be able to overcome all obstacles and achieve the success hoped for to the benefit of our army, our armed forces and the supreme goal, the good of our country and our people.

ODRIISTS CHANGE NAME FOR ELECTION PURPOSES

PA010302Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 25 Jan 78 p 4 PA

[Text] The National Odriist Union will use the name National Union [Union Nacional-UNC] for registration and participation in the election for the constituent assembly.

This was the result of a consultation held by this political group because it was also included in Article 27 of Law Decree 21995 (law of elections for the constituent assembly). [sentence as published]

The information was released yesterday by Oswaldo Corpancho O'Donnell, secretary general of the electoral branch, in a brief talk with newsmen at the end of a meeting of the National Electoral Board (JNE). He added that for the National Union (UNO) to request registration, it has to have the number of previously stipulated signatures and prove the existence of 12 departmental committees.

Asked about the election lists, Corpancho said these should be corrected at the top, eliminating the word Odriist, so that in the future it would read: National Union (UNO). The acronym UNO must go in brackets. He also said that there is no legal reason why the Peruvian Anticommunist Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Anticomunista Peruano) should not ask to be registered.

REVOLUTIONARY ANTICOMMUNIST PARTY EXPLAINS PRINCIPLES

PA270023Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Jan 78 p 5 PA

[Communique of the Peruvian Revolutionary Anticommunist Party issued in Lima on 22 January, 1978]

[Text] The Peruvian Revolutionary Anticommunist Party (PRAP) calmly and firmly rejects the unprecedented communique of the so-called Communist Party that was published on page 4 of the 21 January edition of the newspaper EL COMERCIO. In the communique, the so-called Communist Party protests against the unanimous decision of the National Elections Jury to the effect that the name of our party is not included in Article 27 of D.L. 21995 [not further identified] and therefore it can be officially registered. The name of our party comprises various terms that constitute a conceptual unity, that is, the Communist Party is registered and thus we can do likewise by express mandate of the law.

The PRAP enters the country's political life with a doctrine completely opposed to that promoted by Marxist socialism or international communism which boast of being: anti-Western, anti-Christian, antidemocratic, antipluralist, anti-Catholic, antimilitary, anticlerical and so on. We are exactly the opposite, and the only clear manner of expressing this is by publicly stating that we are anti-communists, revolutionaries and Peruvians.

Our political movement is based on the democratic and humanist principles of our Western and Christian culture. We reject all kinds of open or veiled dictatorship from whatever source. The PRAP has drafted a new revolutionary doctrine that seeks the economic self-liberation of the people on the basis of the transfer of state properties to the men and women born in Peru. The state is the people and the territory and therefore it should be the owner of the national territory with all its natural resources. This new concept, which has not been expressed by any political party inside or outside the country, would give the Peruvian people--without distinction of class, ideology, color or creeds--the opportunity to obtain private property in the urban, agricultural, mining, fishing and jungle areas and in all kinds of centers at the expense of the vast property of the state, and not from the reduced private property currently available. We promote in the country a popular, horizontal [horizontal] and democratic revolutionary capitalism based on the wealth of the state. Therefore, we oppose the capitalist imperialism that is being promoted by communism. That is why we are conceptually anticommunists.

The PRAP is composed of thousands of university students, workers and peasants who have freely accepted our new revolutionary principles. Our membership also includes intellectuals, university professors, white-collar workers, housewives, farmers, teachers, retired soldiers and officers. Because of this we are strong and, as such, we calmly but energetically reject the dictatorial pretensions of international communism in its attempt to coerce the National Elections Jury, which has patriotically implemented the law. At last Peru has a party that will coordinate and support the immediate establishment of a powerful anticommunist and democratic national front.

[Signed] Luis Felipe Ricci Bohorquez, founding chief and president of the national executive committee of the PRAP. Lima, 22 Jan, 1978.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL RULING ON CNA DEFENDED

PA010236Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 26 Jan 78 p 2 PA

[Editorial: "A Just Ruling by the National Electoral Tribunal"]

[Text] The National Agrarian Confederation [Confederacion Nacional Agraria--CNA] submitted a request to the National Electoral Tribunal [Jurado Nacional de Elecciones--JNE], the supreme electoral organization, asking to participate in the upcoming electoral process. On 10 January, the JNE, in strict application of Articles 25 and 27 of Decree Law No 21995, rejected the request. The CNA then filed a petition of nullity or reconsideration. This was also rejected by the JNE, which based its decision on the letter and spirit of the aforementioned articles and other legal provisions.

To have a better idea of the matter and to orient public opinion, we considered it best to familiarize ourselves with the aforementioned texts so as to interpret their contents.

Article 25 states: "Political parties, professional and worker organizations which participate in the various activities of the country and independent groups must request registration with the JNE in order to participate in the elections."

This article complements the letter and spirit of Article 27 which states: "A political party, organization or independent group which requests registration shall not adopt a name that is the same as that of another registered party, organization or independent group or corresponding to the name of a natural or juridical person or names that prejudice or allude to names of institutions or persons."

The CNA is a workers organization with the rights of a juridical person. It was established not only by law but by its status as such. This status, far from ever being challenged, has always been and is currently proclaimed and recognized as being solely that of the CNA. In the documents submitted to the JNE, the organization, which represents a large sector of Peruvian peasants, defines itself a full juridical person [persona juridica gremial]. Nevertheless, it requested registration by the JNE, ignoring or pretending to ignore the respective precepts of Article 27, described above in this editorial, which clearly and emphatically state that the "party" "organization" or "independent groups" requesting registration cannot adopt names similar to other "parties," "organizations" or "independent groups." The quotes were inserted by us to underline the fact that something clear and previously existing in the law is involved here and it is not questionable nor is it subsequent to the CNA request.

Before going before the JNE, the CNA knew (or should have known) that it could not be registered with such a name, because that name belongs to an "organization" which at the same time is a "nonindependant group." [sentence as published]

The CNA also knew that in view of Article 25 of Law 14250, applicable in this case by virtue of paragraph "I" of Article 9 of Decree Law No 21995, the JNE cannot revise, reconsider or modify its rulings. Despite this, the CNA demanded reconsideration or nullification, which shows a clear alarmist intent of creating a scandal with unspeakable motives.

Let it not be said that the rank and file organizations, groups and/or parties face obstacles for registration before the JNE, because Article 30 of Decree Law 21995 authorizes the correction of any error in the registration request by order of the JNE within the 10 days following notification of the rejection resolution.

In the current circumstances in which the revolutionary government has decided to convoke successively constituent assembly elections and elections to renew the peoples' powers, thus demonstrating its constitutionalist will and respect for the will of majorities, public opinion--within the wide range of political positions--will have to agree on the righteous, clear, and just ruling of the JNE, unaltered and unshakable, which must be legally and democratically complied with by all citizens, organizations, groups and parties.

MAS PROMOTES IDEA OF CONSTITUTIONALIST FRONT

PA2501477 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 Jan 78 p 5 PA

[Text] The Peruvian Movement for Socialism [MAS Peruano] feels it is necessary to establish a broad front uniting the socialist and progressive forces. This would undertake a drive so that the new constitution would come as close as possible to permitting the continued development and strengthening of the social forces and conditions for the construction of self-managed socialist [socialismo autogestionario] that is alien to every sort of dogmatism.

The major tasks of the front would be to defend the living and working conditions of the workers and the people, to draw up a wide-ranging political platform to gain power and to help create the objective and subjective conditions needed to build a socialist and independent society with a genuine national idiosyncrasy, and to participate in the work of the constituent assembly so that it will draft a constitution that fosters the following of our route to socialism.

These views are contained in a communique signed by Angel de las Casas Grieve and Francisco Garcia Rios that the MAS addressed to our newspaper.

The communique contends that the current political situation is characterized by the intensification of contradictions within our society and the class struggle. It can be noted that two large sociopolitical blocs are being established due to personal and group ambitions. They are waging an economic, institutional and political struggle.

Economically, the document states, the country's difficult circumstances are used by imperialism and the rightwing as a platform to criticize and lessen the merit of the important and undelayable reforms that have taken place in the country in recent years. [paragraph continues]

Institutionally, the rightwing encouraged by imperialism is desperately attacking the organizations that represent organized workers and the emerging social sectors, convinced as they are that their consolidation would be the most legitimate guarantee of the beginning of a stronger popular power that would not be manipulated by the interests of imperialism or the plutocracy or their representatives and intermediaries.

According to the document, in order to legalize the elections for a constituent assembly it is necessary to implement the set of minimal democratic conditions outlined earlier by MAS Peruano--which guarantee the equality of all the social forces and political parties in the electoral campaign--and to establish an electoral mechanism regulating the presence of the various social sectors (peasants and urban workers) alongside the political parties at the constituent assembly.

We feel, the communique adds, that the assembly and the electoral mechanisms should disprove the absurd thesis that after 9 years of profound changes in this country we should return to the traditional system of competition only among parties. In most cases these parties still represent only their leaderships' interests and interfere with the interests of the social classes they say they represent, orfor which they seek to pose as a vanguard.

After referring to the creation of the front and pointing out that it continues struggling for the right to vote for illiterates and Quechua speakers, MAS Peruano affirms that a revolutionary constitution would be the logical consequence of a revolutionary process in which justice, equality, democracy for all and reason had triumphed. But, it adds, revolutionary processes are not built by a constitution. A constitution institutionalizes a victorious revolution.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED 10 DAYS

FY311951Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The secretary general of the electoral court, Osvaldo Corpancho O'Donnell, announced tha registration for the forthcoming elections has been extended for 10 more days to give approximately 250,000 youngsters in the country who still have not registered an opportunity to do so. He said that after the extension, registration will definitely close on 10 February. Corpancho indicated that from 18 November, 1977, approximately 750,000 have registered in the country. It is believed that the number of youngsters between the ages of 18 and 21 who will vote is approximately 1 million.

More than 300,000 youngsters have registered in Lima and 60,000 more still need to register. Corpancho pointed out that the extension offers those who have not yet registered an opportunity to do so. He recommended that youngsters not wait until the last day in order to avoid congestion in the registration offices. He said that registration for changes of address will continue after the extension for 15 more days before electoral registration control is begun. He said that registration control must end approximately 10 March.

BRIEFS

SUMMER NAVY MANEUVERS--Navy Minister Vice Adm Jorge Parodi Galliani was present during the annual summer maneuvers of the navy. At the conclusion of the exercise, which is basically carried out for training new cadets, Parodi indicated that he is very satisfied with the Peruvian Navy. The Almirante Grau, Villar and Ferre are the ships taking part in the exercise. [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 78 PY]

CTV ORDERS OIL SHIPMENT BOYCOTT AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA312004Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1855 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 31 Jan (AFP)--The Confederation of Workers of Venezuela (CTV) today ordered an immediate boycott of oil shipments to Nicaragua in support of the general strike there.

The most powerful Venezuelan union, controlled by the ruling Democratic Action Party and important opposition sectors, gave the order to its affiliate, the Petroleum Workers Federation (FEDEPETROL), its most powerful branch. CTV said the grave situation in Nicaragua is "a result of the constant violation of human rights by the despotic government of the Somoza dynasty."

It added that the Nicaraguans' struggle against President Somoza's regime is "heroic" and emphasized that with the petroleum boycott Venezuelan workers are expressing solidarity with their Nicaraguan brothers.

CONSALVI DENIES HAVANA EMBASSY 'SURROUNDED'

PA311506Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi has denied that the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana is surrounded by militiamen. He said the Venezuelan Government has not called Ambassador Ramon Delgado to Caracas, pointing out that the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana has the usual vigilance given all embassies in the world. He added that the Cuban Government is expected at any time now to grant safeconducts for the persons who took asylum in the embassy.

MINES MINISTRY GIVES OIL REPORT FOR 1977

PA312332Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 28 Jan 78 pp 1-12 PA

[Text] Total direct exports of crude petroleum, refined products and liquid gas products in 1977 amounted to 787,798,738 barrels or a daily average of 2,152,456 barrels.

The information provided by the Energy and Mines Ministry verifies that in comparison with the 1976 export totals there was a drop in exports of 50,855,298 barrels, or an average of 133,433 barrels daily. This is a 6.5 percent drop.

The export drop is the result of a sound conservation policy which reduced the output of crude and lowered production earmarked for export.

Thus, Venezuela was able to decrease exports so as not to contribute to the deterioration of the petroleum market due to the temporary oil glut of last year. Exports of crude for 1977 amounted to 485,455,738 barrels. This is 16,071,985 barrels or 3.2 percent below those of 1976. Light crudes exported in 1977 amounted to 135,625,627 barrels. Medium crudes exported numbered 103,485,603 barrels. These figures were below those of 1976.

The increase in production of heavy crudes is very important since it shows the work done by our petroleum industry in marketing by placing a larger volume of these crudes on foreign markets and by sharply increasing their share of the total crudes exported. This indicates that the marketing policy drawn up by the Energy and Mines Ministry for Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A., is being complied with. It is important to note that in 1977 the nationalized petroleum industry continued to diversify its markets. The results were satisfactory since new customers were obtained, sales were increased and our traditional customers were supplied.

The domestic demand for refined petroleum products in 1977 reached a daily average of about 275,997 barrels. This was an increase of 19,555 barrels daily over 1976, or 7.6 percent. This demand was in response to the needs of the industrial and domestic sector. In 1977, 277,000 barrels were used daily. Gasoline comprised 58.5 percent of this amount.

It is evident that the agreement on prices decided upon at the 49th Conference of OPEC Ministers and verified in Stockholm, Sweden, is a most important accomplishment. In this regard, Venezuela's contribution was effective, timely and valuable, with President Perez' trip to the Middle East and the Energy and Mines Ministry's persistent work.

The practice of setting minimum export prices for crude petroleum and refined products quarterly was followed last year. In regard to residual fuels, minimum export prices have been established monthly since October, 1976, to assure immediate and rapid response to market fluctuations.

The systematized practice of periodic adjustments permitted the price of medium crudes to increase by 10 cents and heavy crudes by 15 cents per barrel in the fourth quarter of last year.

For 1977, oil revenue was estimated at 35 billion bolivares (41.42 bolivares or $9.68 per barrel of liquid hydrocarbons). This entails an increase of 3.30 bolivares or 77 cents per barrel, confirming that the process of nationalizing the petroleum industry indicates improved use and exploitation of the overall resources of this Venezuelan industry.

Regarding new investments in fixed assets in 1978, it is anticipated that Venezuelan industry will invest a total of 2 billion bolivares to meet the minimum requisites set by the national executive in the areas of exploration, production, transport, refining and other activities which call for the continued efficient operation of this industry, and to maintain a previously established level of proven reserves.

These investments break down as follows: 18.6 percent for exploration, 55.4 percent for production, 10 percent for various forms of transporation, 9 percent for refining, and 7.6 percent in other activities which include sales and administration.

FOREIGN SECRETARY REACTS TO CARTER REMARK ON MIGRANTS

PA311459Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0535 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Jan (AFP)--The Mexican Government was convinced [estaba convencido] that there currently is no possibility whatsoever of reaching an agreement with the United States on migrant workers, Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel announced here tonight. The minister thus referred to a statement made in Washington by President Jimmy Carter that the United States has no intention of authorizing the hiring of Mexican farm workers. Roel said also that the immigration law proposed by Carter last year, which affects Mexican workers who enter the United States illegally, is still pending approval by the U.S. Congress. The foreign secretary added that Mexican-U.S. relations "have never been so good."

REASON FOR VISIT BY PANAMANIANS CALLED SECRET

FL312104Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 2056 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Jan (INFORMEX)--The reason for the visit by the Panama Canal Treaty Negotiating Commission that has been in Mexico since yesterday headed by Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla has been kept an absolute secret. A Foreign Relations Secretariat spokesman has reported that the Panamanians today held private talks for about one-half hour with Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel. However, there has been no report on what they discussed.

The Panamanian Embassy indicated that it did not know the activities in which the aforementioned delegation will be involved in our country. Ambassador Emilia Arosemena is accompanying Gonzalez Revilla and his delegation on their visit to this capital.

PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON CHANGES TO CANAL TREATY

FL312112Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2106 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Upon arrival in this capital, Panamanian Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla declared that his country would only accept changes to the Canal Zone treaties signed with the United States through plebiscites in which the people's will can be freely expressed. Gonzalez Revilla arrived here accompanied by Education Minister Aristides Royo; Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, chief of the negotiation delegation and adviser to the government of Gen Omar Torrijos; and Assemblyman Ruben Dario Herrera.

DEPUTY SERRANO ACCUSES CIA OF MEXICAN BASES

PA311915Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1752 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Jan (EFE)--A Mexican deputy today denounced the existence of CIA training bases in southeastern Mexico. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency bases are reportedly located in the States of Chiapas, Campeche, Oaxaca and Merida, according to Humberto Serrano, leader of the Mexican Agrarian Council. The military bases operated by the CIA are disguised as study centers and are ready upon orders from the U.S. espionage organization to create chaos, Serrano added. The Mexican deputy asked the government of his country to intervene to put an end to these centers which, according to him, are potential guerrilla cells.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER VIEWS POLITICAL SITUATION

PA0100035Y Panama City DOMINICAL in Spanish 29 Jan 78 p 10e PA

[Interview with Dr Antonio Gonzalez Revilla, leader of the Christian Democratic Party--date and place not given]

[Text] Dr Antonio Gonzalez Revilla, outstanding Panamanian neurosurgeon and former presidential candidate of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has told LA REPUBLICA in an exclusive interview that "we do not believe that the current government, which is autocratic in essence, will dare legalize the political parties as it is afraid to subject itself to a free popular election, the results of which would be, in the final analysis, against the government. At any rate, the PDC reserves the right not to subject its decisions to anachronistic legal formulas which may not be respected by the current administration."

Gonzalez Revilla said that "in order to participate as an ideological party in the August elections," the party had set as prior conditions the election of the president and vice president of the republic through direct vote; the establishment of individual guarantees; prior enforcement of the constitutional provision consecrating the free existence of political parties; equal representation for all political parties in the electoral court and a ban on the biased participation of official entities, including the National Guard. At the same time, the interviewed leader remarked that "of course, some of these requisites require constitutional amendments which we doubt this government will adopt, if we bear in mind the statements made recently by some of its most prominent officials."

During the interview, Doctor Gonzalez Revilla said that the PDC's ideological principles and its concept of the attributes of a genuine, representative and unitarian republican democracy have forced it during the 20 years of its existence as a political party to fight the arbitrary electoral actions of the past and the anti-democratic electoral procedures of the present.

He said that the presidential election by representatives "who have not previously expressed to the voters their commitment to elect a specific citizen to that high office as established by the autocratic and anti-democratic 1972 constitution, is an institutionalized mockery of one of the most precious inalienable citizens' rights since the birth of the republic." He added that the legalization of political parties "entails the drafting and approval of an electoral code that will eliminate the defects of the past and the dictatorial and unpopular regulations of the present with the effective representation of the political parties." He said that the electoral tribunal must be reorganized "in order to guarantee honest and free elections which are not safeguarded by the current unilateral integration [integracion] of that political entity."

According to Dr Gonzalez Revilla, the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives "is not a branch of government because it lacks legislative powers and is not a representative body because it does not represent the country's majorities. Although it does have social representation it does not have political power because the demographic minorities have the greatest representation, thus denying the country's political reality."

He added that "in our past and present statements we have repeatedly charged that the Assembly of Representatives does not have legislative power. This makes ineffective the constitutional principle that power comes from the people. Its limited powers, he said, have given rise to a body which has no power whatsoever and which has been created to give the impression of participation of the people in the government, a participation which is an empty illusion."

Returning to the topic of the election of the president and vice president of the republic by the Assembly of Representatives, the Christian Democratic leader said that this constitutes "a mockery of the right of the Panamanian citizen to elect his president in a direct and democratic manner. Every conscientious, responsible and patriotic Panamanian rejects this institutionalized tactic designed to prevent direct popular suffrage, since it constitutes a step backward in the socio-political progress of any democratic, free and civilized country."

One of the most controversial topics in the area of national politics concerns the position taken by the Christian Democrats during the past plebiscite to ratify the Torrijos-Carter treaties on the Panama Canal. During the [pre-plebiscite] debate the Christian Democrats announced their intention of voting against the treaties. This seemed to go unnoticed amid the "maremagnum" of reports, attacks, defenses, and so forth that occurred with regard to the much debated affair. Actually, more than a few doubted that this announcement had ever been made. However, to Gonzalez Revilla the position of the Christian Democrats was clear and based on serious legal studies.

"Our position," he said, "was to reject the treaties, as we said in our manifests of 2 October 1977, in which we stated that the present treaties do not eliminate all the causes of conflict between Panama and the United States. One such cause is embodied in the Protocol on the Permanent Neutrality and Functioning of the Panama Canal, and reaffirmed in the 14 October Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. President and the Panamanian chief of government which establishes--clearly, but in a manner that wounds our dignity as a free people--the right of the United States in perpetuity to intervene in the defense of the canal, in its efficient operation and in the granting of priority passage to U.S. ships.

Gonzalez Revilla added that "even more serious is the application of this protocol to any other interoceanic waterway which Panama may build on its sovereign territory. On page six of the manifesto the Christian Democrats state the following in paragraph (C) on "Definitions": "In the event that the treaties are ratified we leave a record for history that they carry defects which reflect the political situation of the country, and that the present generation and the generations of the future are obliged to void the contract for supervised neutrality and achieve full and effective control over our natural geographic resource."

"I believe that this government, besieged by serious fiscal and economic problems, in order to continue existing was obliged to sign treaties which give us a sovereignty that is partial and subject to 'the protective umbrella of the Pentagon' in perpetuity," Gonzalez Revilla said. He added: "I share the opinion of a well-known Panamanian legal consultant to the effect that, because of the predicted obsolescence of the present canal by the year 2000, these were favorable times for Panama to recover full sovereignty. Therefore, the negotiations should have been continued, no matter how much time it took, in order to achieve the objectives of the Panamanian cause."

For many observers of Panamanian affairs, 10 years of little or no political activity is a great handicap for these groups. Gonzalez Revilla said that "we have overcome the disadvantage because Christian Democracy has remained constantly up to date as an ideological movement and as a political party during these long years of dictatorship through uninterrupted consultations with its membership through the country. The government's favoritism toward certain political groups of the center-right and the left has not been an obstacle to continuing to exercise our patriotic responsibility and our historic mission by taking into consideration that pontifical maxim which states that 'the highest form of charity, outside religion, is politics.'"

Gonzalez Revilla added: "I wish to remind you that Christian Democracy was, through its government programs in the 1964 and 1968 popular elections, the only political party which established as one of its objectives the necessity of the right to vote for all citizens over 18 years of age. As a result of our doctrine, which is constantly being renewed and modernized, our bonds with the youth have increased over the years. Every day the proposals of the youth are more closely identified with those for which Christian Democracy has struggled and continues to struggle to obtain authentic social justice with full freedom under ideological pluralism."

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT ON TREATY, TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT

PA301318Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Jan 78 pp 1,27 PA

[Text] "The treaties should be ratified just as they are," according to the opinion of Bazan.

Former Vice President J.D. Bazan, in an interview granted to the daily LA NACION, of Costa Rica, said "the idea would be for the U.S. Senate to ratify the treaties just as they are to avoid renegotiations."

Following is the text of the statements of the well-known Panamanian political figure and leader of the Republican Party:

Panama is currently undergoing a period of political liberalization, but unless some fundamental changes are made in the government system there will be no full democracy, said Dr Jose Dominador Bazan, twice vice president of that country.

He added that the changes should include the revision of the electoral system and the separation of the legislative power from executive power, which is in fact exercised by Gen Omar Torrijos.

In his LA NACION interview, the first granted since he left office in 1960 because of a coup d'etat after having been vice president for 11 days, Bazan said his country is currently undergoing a "political Indian summer," in which some activity is being permitted along with discussion of public matters in the press.

This new situation, he said, started as result of the campaign shortly before the 14 October 1977 plebiscite on the canal treaties.

ACTIVITY

"Since then," he added, "although political activities have not been authorized, at least they have been tolerated."

He said this has prompted the political parties to come out of the shadows, where they had remained since 1968, and to start regrouping their ranks.

These groups include the Republican Party, to which he belongs, and which recently held a meeting to draft its strategy in some sectors.

This, however, does not mean the parties have been given a special place in Panamanian politics, nor can they participate as such in the August elections to elect the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives which, in turn, will choose the president in October.

"The electoral tribunal," Bazan said, "announced in June 1977 that it would open the electoral campaign in January, but so far has not done so, and is not expected to do so until April."

He declared that although the constitution of 1972 recognizes political parties, the executive branch has not yet issued the provisions to regulate their functioning.

Even if this were done soon, the assembly elections will be held with nonparty candidates.

OBJECTIONS

It is in this very assembly and its relation to other branches of power that Bazan sees the principal antidemocratic element in Panama.

"One of the objections to this system," he said, "is that it permits the minorities in the country to have a majority in the assembly."

He explains that it is so because each corregimiento, regardless of the number of its inhabitants, has one representative and this permits the 600 persons living in one corregimiento to have the same political power that the 60,000 persons living in another have.

The representatives of these corregimientos also constitute the local government in each of the municipalities.

In addition to being hardly representative, the former vice president criticizes the nearly nonexistent legislative powers of the assembly.

"Any constitutional change or new law to be issued must be done by initiative of the 'legislation commission,' which is appointed by the executive branch and is dependent on it.

The president of the republic, on the other hand, appoints a cabinet and the judicial branch, with the approval of the ministers.

"In the last 6 years," he adds, "the National Guard commander (Torrijos) has been granted transitory powers equivalent to those of a president as per the 1972 constitution." This has permitted him to exercise executive power; that is why he is called "chief of government" although such a position does not exist constitutionally.

BAZAN IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE NAME OF TORRIJOS WILL BE BROUGHT UP BEFORE THE NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SO IT CAN ELECT HIM PRESIDENT.

As to the electoral system, Bazan states its operations are supervised by an electoral tribunal consisting of an assembly representative, a member of the executive branch and a member of the judicial branch.

He adds that at present there is a movement underway in Panama for the government to call a national constituent assembly to draft a new constitution. This, however, depends on the executive.

ACTIVITIES

At the time of the 1968 coup which brought Torrijos to power, Bazan was vice president to President Arnulfo Arias. They held these positions for only 11 days.

He relates: "After the coup, I was arrested and exiled to the United States, passing through Nicaragua."

After the 4 years for which he was elected lapsed, he requested (and obtained) a Panamanian passport in mid-1973, and returned to the country. Dr Arias, however, is still in exile in the United States.

Since his return to Panama, he adds, he has engaged in private business.

In addition to vice president, Bazan was a deputy from 1946 to 1948 and from 1956 to 1960, and a member of the Constituent Assembly from 1945 to 1946.

He made his statements to LA NACION in San Jose before leaving for Panama after a brief vacation.

ECONOMY

In commenting on other problems affecting his country, he points to the difficult economic situation which has produced a foreign debt of $1.5 billion and a zero growth in GNP in the last 2 years.

"Besides, this year, the GNP is expected to drop by 2 percent," he says.

He affirms that the increased revenues the government will receive through the new canal treaties will not remedy the situation. "Very slight fiscal improvement will be attained. The economic and unemployment problems will only be solved through internal measures" that will bring about greater investments, he adds.

OTHER TOPICS

During the interview, Bazan referred to several other topics. He also made the following observations:

Torrijos himself had told the U.S. senators that some laws of his government should be repealed, including the press and public order laws. He considers they will probably be replaced by some less drastic ones.

The result of the plebiscite on the canal treaties, in which two-thirds of Panamanians voted in favor, was not what the government expected. "It was believed the canal was like a religion to the Panamanians. The results showed the presence of many protestants," he said.

It is believed that the high percentage of negative votes in the plebiscite was a form of protest against the government system.

There is a consensus that Torrijos did a great job in the negotiations, particularly in the international sector by gaining the support of Latin America and the Third World.

The new treaties are a positive advance. It would be ideal if they were ratified as is to avoid their renegotiation (1).

(1) [as published] Bazan disagrees with the new treaty on the permanent neutrality of the canal.

Torrijos has the support of the armed forces, and several members of that body are occupying ministries and other key positions in the government.

Important personalities of the Peoples Party (communist) hold high posts in the government. "How far their influence goes, no one knows; but there is concern about the fact that it may be greater than the popular support they have," he concludes.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RULES ON SAMUDIO PARTY WRIT

PA011208Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 31 Jan 78 p 1 PA

[Text] "The national constitution includes several provisions on political parties, but these provisions are not for immediate execution; they are provisions for future execution," Attorney General Olmedo Miranda said while commenting on the writ of unconstitutionality filed by Dr Carlos Lucas Lopez in the name of David Samudio.

As is well known, several days ago through lawyer Carlos Lucas Lopez, David Samudio, leader of the political group known as the Liberal Party, filed with the Supreme Court of Justice a write demanding the legalization of political parties. The court turned the case over to the attorney general for a ruling on it.

In his ruling, the attorney general noted that "Article No 1 of Cabinet Decree No 58 of 1966 was repealed by virtue of the legislative power granted to the cabinet by the provisional government." "In this manner," the attorney general added, "the formation of political parties is subject to legal reserve [reserva legal] and is dependent on the discretional power inherent in the legislative authority." The official went on to say that "for this reason, this office feels that Articles No 123, 124, 125 and 273 of the national constitution have not been violated by Article No 1 of Cabinet Decree No 58 of 3 March 1969."

Among the general considerations made by the attorney generals office in connection with Dr Lopez' request, it is noted that even if the decree objected to were declared unconstitutional, this would not mean that the political parties operating before Decree No 58 was implemented would recover their legal status because the system that regulated them "does not fit into the constitutional pattern currently exhibited by the state's branches, particularly the legislative branch." It adds that "furthermore, a repealed decree [norma] cannot go back into effect even if the law that repeals it is declared unconstitutional."

COSTA RICA

FIVE NICARAGUANS SEIZE UN OFFICE IN SAN JOSE

PA311918Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Report by Manuel Melendez]

[Text] I am reporting from Los Yoses in San Jose, where five Nicaraguans have seized the UN office. They have issued a communique. Felipe (Chagres) Alvarado of the Costa Rican Communist Party and Daniel (Aveas) are the only two Nicaraguans who have given their names. The others do not for security reasons. It has been learned that they are all naturalized Costa Ricans. Their communique indicates that they will go on a 24-hour hunger strike that might be extended.

The communique states: We, Nicaraguan workers, members of the Association of Nicaraguans in Costa Rica and Costa Rican Workers, aware of the suffering of the Nicaraguan people, the political crisis in Nicaragua and the need to support by all possible means the just struggle for the complete overthrow of the Somoza military dictatorship, have decided to seize the UN office and to declare a 24-hour hunger strike that may be extended.

The communique adds that this action seeks to attract the attention of the United Nations, the Inter-American Human Rights Committee, the Costa Rican Committee of Solidarity With the Nicaraguan People, and all the democratic organizations of Costa Rica and the rest of the world.

BRIEFS

SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT--San Jose--A cooperation agreement has been signed between the Mexican and Costa Rican social security institutes whereby the Mexican institute will offer Costa Rica's institute technological assistance. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA]

HONDURAS

LIBERAL PARTY GROUP ISSUES POLITICAL DECLARATION

PA010052Y San Pedro SULA TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Jan 78 p 3 PA

[Political declaration of the People's Liberal Alliance issued on 21 January in Siguatepeque, Honduras]

[Excerpts] The People's Liberal Alliance, a progressive movement within the ranks of the Honduran Liberal Party, feels that it is necessary under the present circumstances the republic is experiencing, to submit to the Liberals and the Honduran people the basic principles which should guide our political activity during the period of institutional rehabilitation, which will end with establishment of the national constituent assembly. Our political group, which seeks the renovation of the Liberal Party, has among its principles and objectives the most advanced ideas for turning this historic party into an instrument of transformation much needed by the Honduran people. Our party, an institution of public law based on principles of the recently issued electoral law, must proceed immediately and comprehensively to carry out the tasks which will permit our political group to adapb itself to the new law. Otherwise, the party will not function, nor will it be able to participate in the next elections.

We must admit that the new electoral law demands the internal democratization of all political parties. It also sets the legal conditions based to establish a genuinely representative regime in the country with greater participation by the people.

Within these basic guidelines, the doctrinal statement that "no wealth is stable if based on exploitation and will not last if poverty continues among the broad majorities" assumes great relevance.

Convinced that social activity can only advance with the support and effective participation of the country's progressive forces at a time when the Honduran nation is entering a crucial phase of its life, the People's Liberal Alliance wholeheartedly welcomes groups from all sectors of the nation, without conditions, discrimination, or selfishness and based on a real liberal spirit.

We believe that with this attitude we are allowing true, effective political expression on an equal basis to all those social groups that in the past have felt that they have been discriminated against by the rigid requirements established for participation in the nation's politics. Those periods of political exclusivism must be left behind and replaced by more broadminded attitudes, by more solidarity among national sectors and increased focus on genuine democracy with true social content.

We are not seeking a confrontation with forces holding views different than ours, because we believe in ideological pluralism as a norm of civilized coexistence domestically and internationally. We simply believe there should be a balance which permits social peace among nations, but without giving up for a moment the struggle to improve the living conditions of the large sectors deprived of a decent way of life.

Our appeal is especially directed to the youth, to the most active sectors of our societies, to those sectors which thus far have been the most skeptical of the traditional parties and who are anxious to see social progress come into being. It is directed to that sector of our society which makes up more than 50 percent of the votes and which has had to struggle the most--the most daring one, the one which goes into the streets in the moments of danger, and the one which has always been ready for sacrifice in defense of people's noblest causes.

It also is intended for the workers, peasants, teachers, cooperativists, students and all organized groups which have circumscribed their activities to the policy of their trade unions.

On this occasion, we affirm the principles guiding our movement within the ranks of the Liberal Party. These principles were established in our manifesto-program of April 1977.

The essence of those principles is formed by the doctrinal principles of neoliberalism, which have given democracy a social meaning to make it a humanistic doctrine "which changes as times change."

Loyal to those basic guidelines, we also reiterate categorically and definitely that we will defend permanently all those principles which are part of representative democracy.

In defense of these views, we are only going to accept the will of the people freely expressed through a clean and honest electoral process.

If we are democrats, we must defend democracy. If we are revolutionary, we must promote the changes the country needs. We understand democracy to be the people's right to participate in all the state's decision and to enjoy its social benefits and revolution and the accelerated transformation of structures that keep a majority of our fellow citizens from enjoying human dignity.

NICARAGUA

PRESIDENT SOMOZA INVITED TO VISIT SOUTH AMERICA

PA010417Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2250 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 31 Jan (LATIN)--President Anastasio Somoza announced today that he has received invitations to visit Argentina, Brazil and Chile but has not set a date for his South American trip. I have no dates yet for the trip because I was arranging the details when I became ill, he told foreign correspondents. Somoza suffered from a heart condition last year, from which he is now fully recovered. He said that he had received invitations from the military presidents of Argentina, Chile and Brazil to pay official visits to those countries, visits which he will possibly make during the course of the year.

SOMOZA ANNOUNCES POSSIBILITY OF INVESTING IN VENEZUELA

PA010418Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2252 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 31 Jan (LATIN)--President Anastasio Somoza has announced the possibility of investing in Venezuela, a country which has a good economic climate, he said. "I do not discard the possibility of investing in Venezuela, a country with which we have the most cordial relations," Somoza told foreign correspondents. He conceded that President Carols Andres Perez is concerned over the situation in Nicaragua "because he was very friendly with Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, just as I would be if one of my friends had been murdered."

Chamorro, former director of the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, and Perez were comrades in exile in Costa Rica at the end of the 1950's when Perez was editor of the Costa Rican newspaper LA REPUBLICA.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON GENERAL STRIKE OVER CHAMORRO'S DEATH

Oil Refinery Joins Strike

PA311206Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2336 GMT 30 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 30 Jan (AFP)--According to several observers, the crisis caused by the national strike aimed against Gen Anastasio Somoza's administration worsened today when Nicaragua's only oil refinery suspended its activities.

This afternoon the technicians and workers of the Esso Standard Oil Company suspended their activities in solidarity with the national struggle against the government. With this move they have jeopardized the country's electrical supply.

The light and energy company receives the fuel for its thermal plants throughout the territory directly from Esso. According to a communique released by the refinery's technicians and workers, they are supporting the national strike because they are "heeding the patriotic call for justice in Nicaragua."

Because of the fuel shortage, there is also the danger of a general transportation strike. After the refinery closed, long lines of cars immediately formed at the service stations seeking gasoline.

Even the National Guard may be affected by the strike since its vehicles also receive their fuel from the Esso Standard refinery.

Meanwhile, several radio stations have been deprived of electrical power by order of the government for not obeying the order to stop reporting on the national strike.

Radio Mundial and Radio Mi Preferida, two of the country's most important radio stations, are among those affected.

A branch of the Bank of America was also affected by the power outage. Almost the entire staff has suspended its activities.

Woman Killed in Matagalpa Protest

PA311419Y El Progreso Radio Progreso in Spanish 1230 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua--The indefinite general strike demanding Gen Anastasio Somoza's resignation as president of the republic and chief of the National Guard continues throughout the country despite brutal repression unleashed by the Nicaraguan Government against the peoples of this Central American country.

According to obervers, the critical day for the general strike passed its trial by fire yesterday when the people remained firm in their decision not to return to work.

Meanwhile, a report from Matagalpa says that Jaime Palacios, the son of Deputy Juan Palacios, fired at a group of demonstrators, killing one woman and wounding several others. The demonstrators put up barricades, stopped traffic and burned several buses. It is estimated that more than 200 persons have been arrested throughout the country.

Another report from the coffee growers' region indicates that the government is using personnel and vehicles from the Coffee Disease Control Campaign, which is financed by the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, to carry out repressive actions against the people. The same sources disclosed that some 2,000 persons employed in the Coffee Disease Control Campaign were forced to attend a meeting in Jimotega in support of Somoza.

Radio Stations Formally Charged

PA311446Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0040 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 30 Jan (LATIN)--[The directors of] four radio newscasts were formally accused today by the government of broadcasting reports "contributing to encouragement of the strike," the national director of radio and television, Col Alberto Luna, has reported.

Luna denied reports that the following newscasts had been canceled: Sucesos, of Radio Corporation; Extra, of Radio Continental; Aqui Nicaragua, of Radio Mi Preferida; and Dialogo, of Radio el Fabuloso Siete.

"I am not authorized to do that," Colonel Luna told this agency. "I summoned the directors of these newscasts and formally accused them of broadcasting the communique issued by the Union of Radio Newsmen of Managua," he added.

The communique Luna refers to points out that the radio newsmen of Managua "will uphold our struggle in defense of the freedom of press and human rights. Likewise, we will support to the very end the demands for justice of the Nicaraguan people, the workers and peasants, the private sector, the national clergy, and the popular and student organizations. This we will do by reporting factually and objectively on the events taking place in the country," the communique added.

Last week, the government reorganized the National Emergency Committee, headed by President Anastasio Somoza, and warned the 60 radio stations of the country to abstain from reporting on items "contributing to the encouragement of the strike," after stating that the stations were broadcasting false reports.

The communique of the radio newsmen stated that "the National Emergency Law issued by the executive branch is unconstitutional and is being used for the purpose of denying the right to information and the newsmen's constitutional right to work, with the purpose of distorting the true situation."

Colonel Luna pointed out that Article 47 of the Radio Broadcasting Code says that "it is prohibited to publicize strikes with political purposes or those which have been declared illegal." Meanwhile, President Somoza told foreign reporters that he "will not establish censorship" and that "radio reports should be based on facts."

The opposition daily LA PRENSA said today that the Sucesos newscast of Radio Corporacion "was interrupted during its normal transmission when it began the program by reading the communique of the Radio Journalists Union." The paper added that the Aqui Nicaragua newscast of Radio Mi Preferida, directed by Alberto Reyes and William Pena, was "closed" as soon as it began its 0600 cast.

The afternoon newspaper also mentioned that the newscast Hoy of Radio Mundial "was abruptly closed down by order of Luna when it began its normal transmission, ignoring the censorship order." LA PRENSA added that Ada Luz Monterrey, of the Dialogo newscast of Radio El Fabuloso Siete was "silenced" when her harsh editorial criticized the women's branch of the Somozist Liberal Party. LA PRENSA said that the criticism had been made because the Liberal women's organization "rather than taking care of the needy people of Managua and the rest of the country, had taken advantage of duty-free shopping at the National Guard store."

Luna added that the directors of these newscasts would have "a test period of 5 days." He said that he could not close down these radio transmissions.

Radio Mi Prefereida was closed down for "technical reasons" and reopened just 5 days ago, Luna said. However, the archbishop of Managua, Msgr Miguel Obando, said in an interview broadcast on that station that the reason for the temporary shutdown had been "the transmission of part of a pastoral letter from the bishops."

Students Arrested in Disorders Released

PA311804Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1522 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 31 Jan (LATIN)--Sixty university students arrested early yesterday after serious disturbances at the national university were released last night.

Meanwhile, the strike staged by opposition sectors demanding President Anastasio Somoza's ouster entered its eighth day.

Armed national guardsmen intervened in yesterday's disturbances at the national university. The students sought refuge in classrooms as troops, supported by helicopters, surrounded the premises.

It is not known whether 30 students, who, according to eyewitnesses, were also arrested last night, are still under arrest.

President Somoza used a local idiom to describe the current conflict.

"The capitalists' strike has failed and the persons who climbed the coconut tree do not know how to climb down," he told a press conference.

Newscasts Suspended

PA311859Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1719 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 31 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--After a violent Monday in which demonstrations in various Nicaraguan cities were dispersed by Nicaraguan Army troops, this nation entered its ninth day of an unprecedented general strike. Although the large business establishments in the city remain closed, the government announced the result of a poll today which noted that out of a total of 3,946 businesses visited by government workers, 1,881 are open for business, 158 are partially open and 907 closed.

As of yesterday, those closed include the Esso refinery in the outlying northwestern part of the city, heightening concern in the already tense climate over a possible scarcity of fuel. [Paris AFP in Spanish at 1759 GMT on 31 January reports that "Texaco workers have joined the Esso refinery workers in the movement against the government."]

At the same time, it was learned that the accounting department of the Banco Central has joined the strike, calling on officials and workers in other departments to follow suit in demand of total clarification of the killing of newsman Pedro J. Chamarro. The demand that resident Somoza quit his post has been added to the strikers' original demand.

The Managua Radio Newsmen's Union decided at a meeting last night to join the strike in view of the government ban on reporting about the strike. For this reason most radio newscasts did not go on the air today. The association also agreed to ask the private sector to suspend any advertisements in radio newscasts aired in the coming hours. The government has managed to maintain services despite the general strike, but the Banco Central strike could disrupt the government's normal operations.

[In apparent support of the announced suspension of newscasts by members of the Radio Newsman's Union of Managua, Managua's Radio Corporacion did not contribute its regular segment to the SERCANO Network programs broadcast at 1220 and 1720 GMT on 31 January. The behavior of other Managua stations is unknown since they cannot be heard by FBIS during the day. Nicaraguan stations outside Managua, however, continue to carry regular news programs. Bluefields Radio Zelaya and Bluefields Radio Atlantico have been heard with variable reception carrying regularly scheduled newscasts during the morning hours.]

'News Bank' Created

PA312350Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2205 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 31 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Managua's Union of Radio Newsmen today began operating a "news bank" to keep the public informed of the country's domestic situation. The union adopted the measure after suspending its activities yesterday and joining the strike that has paralyzed Nicaragua for 9 consecutive days.

The union suspended its activities because it could not report on the strike after the government--under the Law of National Emergency--banned local radio stations from broadcasting information on the subject.

The radio newsmen have chosen the journalist's home as their headquarters. There, they write the news they gather from various sources. The news then released to the public in the capital's churches, where newsmen read to those assembled, sometimes with the help of loudspeakers, the available reports on the situation.

Gasoline Reported Scarce

PA312357Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2133 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 31 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Twenty-four hours after the 130 employees of the U.S.-owned Esso refinery joined the strike, thus paralyzing the refinery. Cars are having to form lines to buy gasoline in this capital. This is the situation at those stations still open, because most of the 47 gasoline stations are closed due to the strike, which today entered its ninth day.

Soldiers are guarding the stations that have not joined the strike in order to protect their employees and clients. The personnel of the gas stations that have joined the strike remain at their jobs but do not even service tires.

The vigilance of military personnel in various parts of the city is more intense in the Ruben Dario section of the national university, where hundreds of students are on strike but have not left the campus. Vigilance was increased today to prevent street demonstrations at the university campus, where troops loyal to Gen Anastasio Somoza yesterday had to use tear gas.

The National Guard is also protecting the establishments that have decided to remain open for business.

While a climate of abnormality exists in Managua, the state-owned radio station (Radiodifusora Nacional) has announced that some 5,000 employees and workers of the San Antonio sugar mill--the country's largest--decided to return to work today. The sugar mill's personnel had been on strike until today when, for unknown reasons, they decided to end the strike and return to their jobs at the sugar mill located in the country's western region.

Almost concurrently, the government's Information and Press Office announced that the country's banking system "continues operating normally throughout the republic." Although the banks are open, few customers are seen transacting business, however. The Central Bank has announced that it is working normally, but it is known that its accounting section is on strike.

Demonstrations Continue

PA010129Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0023 GMT 1 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 31 Jan (AFP)--It has been announced here that the clashes that took place today in the city of Matagalpa between antigovernment demonstrators and the public forces resulted in 1 death and 12 persons injured, 2 of them seriously. The dead person was identified as Margarito Zeledon, a 20-year old student. The two seriously injured persons are Idelfonso and Francisca Molina. According to reports received here, Matagalpa, a city of 25,000 inhabitants, was covered this morning by the heavy smoke of the teargas grenades used against the demonstrators. According to unofficial reports, Matagalpa's departmental commander, Col Gregorio Pichardo, was dismissed from his post today. Although this news has not been confirmed, it is also being rumored that this morning, the Sandinist National Liberation Front took over the National Guard post at Rio Blanco, a town located 130 km northwest of Matagalpa, in the mountains. If this report by the peasants of Exivona is confirmed, this would be the first time that the front has taken action since the national strike began here. According to the peasants, numerous shots were heard last night and early this morning in this post, which is used to garrison troops fighting the guerrillas. Demonstrations reportedly were still being held today in the western city of Leon, where antigovernment elements were accompanied by Indians carrying drums. It has been stated that in phone communications with Managua the noise of the drums could be heard along with shots, some of them being fired against the crowds.

Meanwhile, in Managua, those against the Somoza regime rejoiced over the news that Venezuela had decided to embargo oil shipments to Nicaragua and that the United States had suspended military aid. Both reports were published by the newspaper LA PRENSA, the only news media that is not subject to official censorship. The progovernment newspaper NOVEDADES and several radio and television stations controlled by the national censorship office today published and broadcast reports according to which the force of the strike is already waning. These media even published lists of businesses which they say have reopened. Several radio stations have been relocated inside churches, from where they have continued broadcasting details of the strike. [sentence as received] In the meantime, demonstrators in the streets of Managua attacked a group of U.S. newsmen from NBC, who were traveling in several official vehicles. The demonstrators accused them of carrying out propaganda openly in favor of Somoza's regime. This morning, all the banks and private clinics as well as 90 percent of all businesses and industries remained closed despite the fact that Somoza last night met with private sector representatives to discuss the resumption of their activities.

Chamber Leader: Somoza Near Ouster

PA010305Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 31 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Cornelio Hueck, president of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Deputies, said in an interview published by the newspaper LA NACION today that "the opposition has a good opportunity now to oust the Nicaraguan president from power." The high-ranking official, who until recently enjoyed the confidence of Gen Anastasio Somoza, said that the critical days being experienced by Nicaragua have been interpreted by Somoza's opponents as a key factor in obtaining what they have always wanted--power.

Hueck said that the "cruel and cowardly" murder of journalist Pedro Chamorro has fanned the crisis. He declined to give advice to end the crisis in Nicaragua, affirming that "I do not want to give advice to anyone, since I have not been asked. I do not want to participate in anything. Let them--those in the government--get out of this by themselves."

RAPID REPORTS ON CIA'S WORLDWIDE PROPAGANDA NETWORK

FL3114527 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The United States' CIA maintains an intensive worldwide subversive propaganda activity whose objective is to misinform world public opinion and slander the countries of the socialist community. The North American paper THE NEW YORK TIMES has stated that the CIA has created and controls a worldwide propaganda network, which includes newspapers, news services, magazines, publishing houses and radio stations. The paper states that the link which joins the CIA to its propaganda agents is money. Since the postwar years the CIA has been financing the influential magazine PARIS-MATCH. It subsidizes Radio Free Europe and others which carry programs full of slander and subversive propaganda against socialism. According to a CIA official, the spy apparatus had at least one paper in each foreign capital, and they would infiltrate CIA agents and officials into other papers to watch over the publication of articles which the administration would like.

RADIO CITES MENGISTU'S MESSAGE TO ETHIOPIA ON CONFLICT

FL311836Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council, has proclaimed his country's decision to continue confronting the Somali armed aggression which now has been expanded with the support of the principal capitalist countries, Arab reactionary forces and Iran. In a message to the nation, the Ethiopian chief of state revealed the existence of agreements among Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United States which are joined by other Arab nations and the Federal Republic of Germany to push Somalia to continue its aggression against Ethiopia. The Ethiopian leader explained that events in that African region are part of neocolonialist plans and he defined the Ethiopian revolution as part of the world's revolutionary struggle.

Mengistu asserted that Ethiopia, immediately after proclaiming its socialist nature, proposed to Somalia the creation of a confederation which initially would have united the two nations to promote peace, progress and good neighborliness in the Horn of Africa region. However, he added, Somalia's reply was an aggression that Ethiopia had to face along with the armed uprisings of landowners in the country's 14 regions.

In his message to the nation, the president of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council emphasized that the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community not only refused to help the expansionist ambitions of the Somali leaders, but they also asserted a policy of principles in opposition to such an adventurous policy.

Lastly, he thanked the socialist nations and other progressive forces for the unselfish and multifaceted assistance they have offered to build a society based on equality, peace and social justice.

FAR COMMENTARY CRITICIZES CHINESE LEADERSHIP POLICIES

FL3120477 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry combatants political information commentary]

[Text] Events show that the ruling Chinese leadership is increasingly alining itself with imperialism and reactionary forces.

Peking's policy continues leaning toward serving as a baton for plans of the United States and other NATO members. The most recent conflicts in Africa, Middle East and Asia demonstrate this.

China has supported and supports secessionism in Angola. It participated with South Africa and Zaire in the aggression against Angola and its position is contrary to a sovereign and independent Angola. China helped Mobutu Sese Seko to crush the uprising in the Zairian province of Shaba, where China joined France, Morocco and others to reinforce the Kinshasa reactionary regime.

China, one of the principal collaborators of the fascist Chilean junta in America, is one of the few governments that do not condemn Israeli expansionism in the Middle East. China does not condemn the French policy or Mauritanian-Moroccan occupation in the western Sahara.

The Chinese Government is reinforcing its bonds with the bellicose Western powers. West German, French and U.S. officials frequently go to Peking. At the same time, China has undertaken an internal militarization plan which includes the entire economy and reinforcement and modernization of the army.

The Peking leadership supports NATO's arms race actions, follows the policy of tension and advocates that a third world war is inevitable.

Another practice undertaken by China is espionage work against other countries. A network of spies directly managed from Peking was recently uncovered in Indonesia. Some 100 agents of Chinese nationality, including military men who entered Indonesian soil with false documents, were in the network.

Anti-Sovietism, marriage with imperialism and ideological deviation lead the Chinese leadership to increasingly more reactionary positions. The Maoist line is still in force. The desires and interests of peoples are betrayed and, therefore, those of the Chinese people themselves--a hardworking people and full of vigor who one day will demand an accounting from those who promote the affront to which they are being subjected today.

NICARAGUAN NATIONAL GUARD ACTIONS AGAINST STRIKE NOTED

FL010025Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Nicaraguan Air Force has dropped hundreds of tear gas bombs over the Ruben Dario University campus in Managua where students have erected barricades. The bombing lasted more than 2 hours and was preceded by a National Guard military operation to surround the university. The Nicaraguan military forces prevented Red Cross volunteers from entering the university campus. Therefore, it is not known if there have been casualties. However, press sources reported that they were able to see from nearby areas more than a dozen bodies on the campus.

Meanwhile, in the city of Matagalpa, located 12 kilometers from Managua, the National Guard used firearms to disperse demonstrators demanding the resignation of dictator Somoza. Costa Rican Radio stations today reported that at least one person was slain and more than a dozen injured as a result of the police action.

The number of casualties from the Somoza guard repressive action against the hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans who have been on a general strike for 9 days and demand the dictator's resignation has not yet been determined. The National Guard's repressive actions are commanded by Somoza's son, which shows the dictator's distrust of other officers. Peasants, workers, entrepreneurs, merchants, proscribed political parties, trade unions, the church, intellectuals, the opposition Conservative Party and students are involved in the present strike against the regime.

Nicaraguan state employees today for the first time joined the strike that began in Nicaragua on 24 January and which now involves demands for the resignation of regime chief Anastasio Somoza.

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS WITH DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DELEGATION

FL311442Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met with the Dominican Republic Government delegation which is visiting our country. The Dominican delegation is in our country to accept the remains of its poet, Fabio Fiallo, buried in Santiago de Cuba in 1942. Secretary of State Julio Genaro Campillo [as heard] heads the governmental delegation. The meeting between Fidel and the visitors was held in a friendly atmosphere.

Delegation Honors Gomez

FL312309Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Excerpts] The governmental delegation from the Dominican Republic headed by Secretary of State [presumably without portfolio] Julio Genaro Campillo has laid a floral wreath at the monument to Gen Maximo Gomez. The delegation includes Academy of Sciences President Pedro Troncoso and his wife, and poets (Pedro Mir) and (Manuel del Cabral). Campillo delivered a brief speech expressing his wish that this meeting between Cubans and Dominicans will help to strenthen relations between our two peoples.

National Library Director Julio Le Reverend and Luis Morejon, deputy director for solidarity of the Cuban Institute for Friendship With Peoples, accompanied the delegation.

GDR PARTY DELEGATION VISITS SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL311341Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Text] A high-level Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] delegation, which is visiting our country at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee, toured the Eastern Second Front in Santiago de Cuba Province. The delegation, headed by Johannes Chemnitzer, SED Central Committee member and Neubrandenburg Secretariat first secretary, was welcomed by Francisco Gonzalez, member of the Party Provincial Bureau and first secretary of the Second Front. During their tour through the Eastern Second Front, the SED delegation visited the Mausoleum of the Martyrs in this municipality. The rest of the GDR delegation includes Heinz Kuhrig, agriculture, forestry and foodstuffs industry minister and Central Committee member [as heard] along with other SED officials.

POLITBURO MEMBER BLAS ROCA RECEIVES NEW ITALIAN AMBASSADOR

FL010032Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Blas Roca Calderio, president of the People's Government National Assembly and vice president of the Council of State, today received in a solemn audience His Excellency Severio Salvatore Pocari li Destri de Raino, who presented his credentials that accredited him as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Italy.

FIRST METALWORKERS CONGRESS OPENS AT CTC AUDITORIUM

FL311923Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Last year, the Ministry of Mines was outstanding in providing the national economy with close to 12 million pesos and in achieving an 11-percent real growth as compared with the 1976 growth rate. This statement was made by Rafael Navarrete, National Commission president of the First Metalworkers Congress, upon reading the central report at the meeting. The event which began this morning at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] Lazaro Pena Auditorium, was presided over by Politburo member Pedro Miret Prieto and Central Committee members Jesus Montane Oropesa and Roberto Veiga, CTC secretary general. Also at the Presidium were Marat Moynachev, counsellor of the USSR Embassy in Cuba, ministers and trade union leaders.

Referring to the Iron and Steel Machinery Ministry [MINAS] enterprises efforts to recoup production, Navarrete pointed out that the work done by Antillana de Acero, Anastasio Cardenas Machine Plant and others. Special mention in the central report was given to the workers and management groups of the MINAS machine production enterprises for having achieved an increase of more than 10 million pesos as compared to 1976.

Further Report

FL311954Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1904 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Text] This year's [production] plan of the organizations that compose the National Trade Union of Mining-Metallurgical Workers amounts to 105 million pesos, according to an announcement contained in the main report to the first congress of that union, which opened this morning at the Lazaro Pena Auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC.

Rafael Navarrete, chairman of the organizing committee, read the main report which indicates that this plan represents a 19-percent growth in comparison to last year. The Iron and Steel Machinery Industry Ministry will have a 41-percent growth this year while the Mines Ministry's growth will be 14 percent.

In connection with last year, the report makes an exhaustive and critical analysis of work completed and not completed, stressing positive as well as negative factors of production.

Mining-metallurgical workers this year must put into operation the storage battery factory and the sprinkler irrigation equipment plant, both in Manzanillo. So far as nickel production is concerned, they must produce no less than the 1977 production. To this end it will be necessary to rebuild the plants in Moa and Nicaro to make them produce more than 40,000 tons in coming years.

The main report to the Mining-Metallurgical Workers' Congress also emphasizes that more than 300,000 tons of finished products at Antillana de Acero, 300 KTP-1 sugarcane harvesters and prototypes of the new KTP-2 harvesters must be produced. Production plans also include the delivery this year of 1,800 GIRON-5 buses and 380 GIRON-11 buses for urban transportation service.

The value of investments to be made by the biggest organizations of the National Trade Union of Mining-Metallurgical Workers amounts to approximately 900 million pesos through 1980. The Mines and Geology Ministry alone doubles the levels of construction work done last year, emphasizes the main report read by Rafael Navarrete, chairman of the organizing committee of the congress, which opened this morning at the CTC's Lazaro Pena Auditorium.

The report gives an overall picture of work completed, plans to be developed, difficulties, deficiencies, achievements and actions to be undertaken for greater efficiency.

At the conclusion of the reading of the main report, the delegates to the congress began their discussion.

FIDEL CASTRO SENDS MESSAGE TO CIEGO DE AVILA FMC

FL312022Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a message to the Ciego de Avila Province Federation of Cuban Women--FMC--Directorate in answer to a message by the Ciego de Avila FMC members which set out their pledge to work with all their effort in every task required to be done by women and to participate along with our people in the most momentous activity in the economic life of our country.

Thank you very much for your warm and revolutionary letter, said Fidel in his answer to the Ciego de Avila FMC members. And he concluded by saying: we are sure that the women of Ciego de Avila will know how to suitably honor the pledges they have made, and to give the necessary impetus to the harvest in that province, and contribute so that the slogan, "a larger sugar harvest," which our party has issued for 1978, becomes a reality. I beg you to give all the Ciego de Avila FMC members our best wishes for success in the new year.

In the letter sent to Fidel, the delegates to the Ciego de Avila Province meeting for the election and/or reelection of officers stated that they had approved a special resolution for our commander in chief in the present sugar harvest campaign, and they pointed out that the battalion "Mabisas del 80" has already completed its first tasks and is continuing to work with the firm commitment to go forward, completing with quality the activities assigned and contributing to make a larger sugar harvest. Upon showing our full determination to offer with responsibility and enthusiasm our contribution to the '78 sugar harvest, we once again state the profound affection of the Ciego de Avila Women and we reaffirm that in any manner, for any purpose and anywhere, the Commander in Chief can command us.

SINGLE PROJECTS DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM SEMINAR OPENS

FL310033Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The first seminar for implementation of a single system for documentation of projects opened in Havana today. More than 120 specialists in standardization matters are participating in the seminar which will continue until tomorrow at the auditorium of the Havana City Provincial People's Government.

(Boris Krutov), deputy chief of the Technical Directorate of the USSR State Committee for Standards, spoke at the seminar to explain the experiences from implementation of such a system in the USSR.

The single system for documentation of projects will provide the national economy with a number of rules and provisions concerning implementation of the organization and other aspects of projects documentation.

BARBADOS

ADAMS APPEALS TO OPPOSITION ON ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES

FL302300Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 26 Jan 78 p 2 FL

[Text] Barbados' Prime Minister Tom Adams has appealed to the opposition not to inflame social passions during the current difficult economic times.

Mr. Adams was speaking in the House of Assembly on Tuesday during debate on a resolution for $222,880 during which his government was criticised by the opposition for not fulfilling its pledges to old age pensioners in keeping with its 1976 general elections manifesto.

The prime minister said that the Barbados Labour Party had come to power with a series of pledges which were being realised. But instead of the opposition pointing out to the government how it should set about making these promises a reality it was merely trying to inflame the feelings of the country's very disadvantaged.

Mr. Adams, who is also minister of finance, asked the opposition if it wanted the social unrest which would result if government were to be financially irresponsible in trying to satisfy its promises to senior citizens in a short space of time in bad economic circumstances.

Mr. Adams said that the leftists in Barbados knew that they could not come to power until things got worse economically and there was social unrest.

The prime minister, who also has responsibility for defence and security, wanted to know if the opposition wanted to contribute to the social unrest which would permit the growth of communism.

Mr. Adams added that what Barbados needed at this time was sober and considered judgment and not the rhetoric of revolution.

But opposition leader, Mr. Frederick Smith, pointed out to the house that the opposition was no less patriotic than the government and that it loved its native country as deeply as anyone else.

Mr. Smith made it clear that this was the opposition's official point of view, but said that just like any other party, the DLP contained a variety of views.

1977 BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT 'ENCOURAGING'

FL302305Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 26 Jan 78 p 2 FL

[Text] Barbados balance of payments deficit for last year will be in the region of BDS$20 million the Central Bank reported on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the bank told CANA the BDS $20 million deficit was "encouraging" when compared with the 1976 figure of BDS $39 million.

The 1977 figure would however, be the second occasion since 1977 that there has been a deficit.

In 1974, there was a balance of payments surplus of BDS $600,000 and in 1975 there was a BDS $37-million surplus. The official viewed the 1977 deficit in the light of Barbados borrowing about BDS $35 million from Trinidad and Tobago and the International Monetary Fund last year.

Last year government and the Central Bank stepped up their efforts to reduce the level of imports. Restrictions were tightened on the importation of certain consumer items and no new licences were issued for motor car exports.

In August, the bank also directed commercial banks to restrict their consumer credit to the levels prevailing at the end of June. This credit is used mainly on imported items and adversely affect the island's external payments position.

The spokesman said Barbados had "borrowed more than was needed" last year and he added that would simply mean the foreign exchange reserves would go up by the difference and be available this year.

"This year's deficit shows that things are not getting too far out of hand, but until we see a strong improvement in exports we can't be all that happy", the official said.

"There was some encouragement to be derived from the deficit. We have done a little better. This is largely a result of the import controls imposed."

He said that next month the bank is likely to make a report on last year's economic performance.

JAMAICA

AIR SECURITY AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

FL302315Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jan 78 p 15 FL

[Text] A memorandum of understanding on regional air security on behalf of their governments was signed by minister of foreign affairs, the Hon. P. J. Patterson, and high commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Basil Pitt, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingston, last week Wednesday.

Under the terms of the agreement, both countries will pursue similar legislature on aviation security to ratify international conventions signed, according to an API release.

The two countries will also exchange information relevant to the question of air security.

Units will be set up to supervise the operation of the agreement.

After the signing, Mr. Patterson said that the extensive discussions reflect the importance both governments attached to the agreement.

Mr. Pitt said he was pleased with the agreement signed and that he looked forward to further mutual understanding to make the Caribbean a safer place.

Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago are the first to sign such an agreement. It is hoped that other Caribbean countries will join in the agreement as there are provisions for expansion, API said.

THOMPSON ISSUES STATEMENT ON 5 JAN GREEN BAY SHOOTING

FL302330Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Jan 78 pp 1, 12 FL

[Excerpts] National Security Minister Dudley Thompson said in a statement Tuesday night according to API that the government was fully aware of and responsive to public concern over the Green Bay shooting on January 5 this year in which five men were shot dead.

The security forces launched a manhunt for the other nine men who they said had been engaged in target practice with the five at the army firing range near the foot of the Port Henderson Hills, near Portmore, St. Catherine.

They said that all 14 men had turned their fire on them when they were challenged, and that in the shoot-out the five were killed. They said the other nine escaped. To date the Security Forces have not reported the recovery of any firearm.

Minister Thompson's statement reads:

"With regard to the call for a public enquiry relating to the shooting at J.D.F. Firing Range at Green Bay, the government is fully aware of and responsive to the public concern. This, however, must not be misunderstood to suggest that the proper authorities carrying out necessary investigation under very difficult circumstances ought to be stampeded into premature or unwise disclosures which could hamper investigations into a matter of real importance to this nation.

"With regard to others who have called for government statements on the subject, I would like to state that public confidence can never be assured by hasty and premature statements. Evidence is still being collected and in due course the public will be in a position to hear all the facts concerning the deaths properly attested, from the duly constituted authority."

LABOR MINISTER TO VISIT GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE NEXT MONTH

FL281710Y Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Jan 78 p 9 FL

[Text] Kingston, Tues--Jamaica's minister of labour, the Hon. William Isaacs, will visit the American naval base at Guantanamo Bay, in Cuba, next month. He hopes to finalise new conditions of work and a new wage contract for Jamaicans working there. (CANA)

MANLEY, SEAGA HOLD TALKS WITH PEACE COUNCIL

FL262030Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Jan 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Prime Minister, the Hon. Michael Manley, and the leader of the opposition, Mr Edward Seaga, yesterday afternoon met with representatives of areas in the corporate area which are involved in peace initiatives, and held preliminary talks on problems facing the areas in their search for lasting peace, a release from the office of the prime minister said.

In a three-hour session at Jamaica House, members of the group, called the Central Peace Council, identified three main areas which they said would have to be dealt with immediately. These were relations with the security forces; unemployment and the distribution of jobs, and the discrimination shown by people in the larger society against people in the ghetto areas in search of employment, the release stated.

Arising out of the discussions, a meeting is to be arranged between the Central Peace Council, the minister of national security, Senator Dudley Thompson, the opposition spokesman on crime, Mr. Winston Spaulding and the Police High Command, to discuss ways in which relations between the police and people in the ghetto areas' can be improved.

Prime Minister Manley will also meet with members of the Peace Advisory Committee comprising representatives of the PNP, JLP, the church, trade union movement, the private sector organisation of Jamaica and other community bodies at 10 A.M. today to examine proposals for community development and improvement, and ways in which these bodies can assist. At a later date, this bi-partisan committee will also meet with the Central Peace Committee to discuss the actual implementation of programmes. With regard to the distribution of work in the ghetto areas, Prime Minister Manley pointed out that the Joint JLP-PNP committee which is examining a number of national problems is also considering the question of distribution of scarce benefits and what alternatives there were to the present system.

Also present at the meeting were the secretary of the Jamaica Council of Churches, the Rev. Oliver Daley, Pastor Gordon Bennett of the Seventh Day Adventists Union and the Rev. Peter Spencer of the Jamaica Evangelical Association.

PRIME MINISTER MANLEY GIVES REASONS FOR DEVALUATION

FL241755Y Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 17 Jan 78 p 6 FL

[Text] Kingston, Mon-Following is the text of Prime Minister Michael Manley's broadcast Friday, in the wake of an announcement by Finance Minister David Coore that the Jamaican dollar was being devalued.

The prime minister said:

"I am sure you will all have heard by now the hard and unpleasant news that the minister of finance announced.

"We have had to devalue our currency and I know that many of you are still wondering how this move will affect us in our current battle for production and self-reliance.

"Tonight, I want to try to explain in the clearest way and make some comments as to why it has happened, what it means, what we can do about it and where we go from here.

"Last year we entered into an agreement with the International Monetary Fund. This agreement was necessary because of our acute shortage of foreign exchange and because the IMF is the only organisation in the Western world that can make it possible for a country in our kind of difficulty to get hold of the foreign currency that we need in order to keep things going.

Long Argument

"We had a long argument with the IMF about the terms under which we would enter into this agreement and managed to change a number of the conditions which they originally proposed.

"The agreement which was eventually made was important. In face one might also say it was an indispensable element in the emergency production plan.

"All those efforts last year were made in an attempt to stabilise Jamaica's situation so that we could be in a position to start the long haul to economic recovery, expansion and development through a realistic and effective five-year plan.

"Throughout last year, things were extremely tough, but by the second half of the year there were areas of the economy that were beginning to pick up, particularly in domestic agriculture and non-traditional exports.

"The outlook for this year is definitely brighter than it had been one year ago.

"We expect improvements to occur in our bauxite production. We are also beginning to see signs of what looks like a major recovery in tourism and signs of continued progress in agriculture and our manufacturing exports.

Stumbling Block

"Now the key to Jamaica's future lies in export earnings. Indeed, the biggest single stumbling block on the road to recovery is foreign exchange.

"Therefore, it is critical that we press on with the production drive and concentrate our efforts on everything that can promote increased earnings of foreign currency.

"Equally, our relations with the IMF are important because in the short run our plans for economic expansion depend heavily on our foreign exchange situation.

"Now, as the minister of finance explained earlier, the agreement with the IMF called for the passing of a number of economic tests. These tests are called in the technical language in use by bankers 'the net domestic assets tests,' 'the banking system credit to the public sector tests,' 'the reserves test,' 'the government monthly expenditure test.'

"As it turned out, we passed all the tests but one. Unfortunately, we failed the 'net domestic assets tests.'

"Now this test measures the relationship between our foreign exchange reserves, on the one hand, and the amount of money in circulation, on the other.

"There is a complicated formula which is used to prepare this measurement and according to this formula, our domestic assets should have stood at $355 million on December 7, 1977.

"Because of a number of factors, the chief of which was the increase of money in circulation as Christmas approached, we missed the figure of $355 million by $9.1 million.

"As a consequence it became necessary to enter into a new set of negotiations so as to have access to what is known as the 'Extended Fund Facility' and other sources of international finance over the next three years.

"These funds are essential to the country's ability to finance our five-year plan and, indeed, are critical to our capacity to continue on the path of economic recovery.

"In many ways, what happened is similar to what happens to a family with their bank manager, although it is much more complicated, of course.

"If everything is going fine and you go to your bank manager to borrow money to extend your house, you have no problem. But if the family has taken some heavy blows and has to borrow money to get out of difficulty, the bank manager can be very tough.

"Now, I am telling you this so that you can understand the real significance of the minister of finance's announcement.

"As we have made clear on a number of occasions, the Government of Jamaica believes that a flexible exchange rate policy is correct for Jamaica at this time.

Two Points

"From time to time, we must adjust the exchange rate of our currency so that our exports can be competitive, because it is the earnings of these exports which provide the only long term answer to our economic difficulties.

"However, we have always recognised that devaluation has to be seen from two points of view. There are economic factors which may point in one direction but these have to be weighed against social factors, mainly as these factors affect the cost of living.

"In the meantime, we have access to the funds of the IMF and the sources to which it holds the key. So having failed the test at the end of the year, we entered into talks with the IMF to see what had to be done. As it has turned out, both sides agree that some measure of devaluation is necessary, but the IMF feels this devaluation should be somewhat larger than we really think necessary at this time.

"The truth is, a strong case can be made on technical, economic grounds for the rate which the IMF requires as a precondition to further financial support. We would have preferred a smaller adjustment, but, in the end, the fundamental consideration is that we must have access to foreign exchange in the future.

"So we have agreed to a movement in the basic rate to $1.05 (Jamaican) for one dollar U.S., and in the special rate to $1.35 (Jamaican) for one dollar U.S.

"The movement of the special rate will be a further stimulus to our vital exports and the movement of both rates is necessary to secure the foreign exchange which is necessary for the continued growth of our economy.

"We realise that this is stiff medicine and there is no question but that our failure to pass the domestic assets ratio test was a definite setback and a blow.

"But we are tough people and we are now going to proceed to make a new agreement with the IMF to ensure that the financial resources, particularly our foreign exchange resources, are available for the five-year plan, a plan which will be announced at the same time as the budget for 1978/1979.

"This devaluation is going to affect the cost of living to the extend of about six per cent over a full year. On the other hand, we are going to take certain measures to minimize the effects of the movement particularly as it affects the poorer people among us.

"But before I discuss these measures, I want to say a word about increases in certain gas and petroleum prices. After the exchange rate movement of 1977, we held a number of petroleum products steady in price by increasing subsidy measures.

"With this latest movement, it is impossible to maintain the level of subsidy which was spent last year. We have therefore moved the price of premium and regular gasoline to $2.25 and $2.16 per gallon. Again this is stiff medicine but it has to be faced.

"In the meantime, as far as the prices of basic commodities are concerned, I am not going to try and give you all the details tonight.

"But I want to let you know that we will be taking action to keep these price movements to a minimum by using the State Trading Corporation to cushion what would have been the price increases which would have normally followed this devaluation.

"We are able to do this because our first State Trading Corporation, Jamaica Nutrition Holdings, has been in operation for over three years and has done a fine job of holding prices stable while building up a steady stock of reserves to deal with just the sort of difficulty which we now face.

"We propose now to call on Jamaica Nutrition Holdings to apply some of their accumulated profits to hold down prices as much as possible.

"Naturally, we cannot remove entirely the need for price increases,but our strategy is to keep as low as possible the prices of items which are critical to the survival of poor people.

"To do this, Jamaica Nutrition Holdings will be providing direct price subsidies valued at over $15 million.

"The benefit from our policy of having a State Trading Corporation handle our basic food imports, will be to give some relief at this time.

"On Tuesday, the minister of industry and commerce will announce details of the price changes of a number of commodities.

"Now, as soon as it became clear that it would be necessay to move the exchange rate to the extent which we have indicated, we felt it our duty to have a careful look at the poorest among us.

"And who are these? They are all those workers who live on the wages required by the national minimum wage law. They are the old age pensioners. They are the people on public assistance under the Ministry of Social Security and the Ministry of Local Government and of course there are the unemployed.

Wage Law

"We carried out a careful examination of the minimum wage law which has been in operation unchanged for more than two years, the basic weekly pension under the National Insurance Scheme, and the monthly rate of the special assistance programme which has also been in effect for two years without change.

"Realising that these groups have already been hurt by the increase in the cost of living in the last couple of years and will now be affected to a certain extent in the course of this year, we have decided to take the following action to provide a measure of protection for these most needy categories.

"Effective as soon as the necessary legal steps can be taken, the national minimum wage will be raised from 20 to 24 dollars per week, and the national minimum daily rate from $4.00 to $4.80 per day.

"The previously exempted group, rural transport, will now be brought under the protection of the law. The change will affect some 110,000 workers.

"Effective immediately, NIS pensions across the board will be increased by slightly over $4 a month. This will increase the basic pension from $6.90 to $7.90 per week. This will affect 33,000 pensioners.

"Public assistance will be increased by two dollars to 12 dollars a month, affecting 51,000 old persons. For the thousands of government pensioners, pensions will be increased by amounts ranging up to a maximum of 25 per cent, with the highest increases going to those who are now receiving the lowest pensions.

"In the meantime, it is not proposed to increase the rate in special employment programme. This is so because this programme exists solely for the purpose of providing work to the unemployed. Much as one would like to pay more, any increase in these rates can only reduce the number of people who can benefit. So we must ask these workers to continue to be patient, even though we know that the rate is very low.

"The exchange rate movements which have been announced, and also the increases in the prices of certain petroleum products, will result in some increases in government revenues for the rest of the financial year.

"We propose to allocate some of these increases in ways which will help to alleviate unemployment in areas where this problem is most severe.

"Unemployment is today one of our greatest problems, and we are determined to do everything in our power to remedy the situation as quickly and effectively as possible.

"What we must do now is get on with the work--whatever our work is. We will be working all out to have the five year plan ready for the next budget. We will also be working to make a new agreement with the IMF which is based on the concept of economic expansion.

"We need unity, we need cooperation, we need peace. It is a long, tough road. But I have absolute faith in our people."

BANK ANNOUNCES CLOSURE OF THREE BRANCH OFFICES

FL302310Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Jan 78 p 1 FL

[Text] The turmoil in Jamaica's banking industry continued yesterday as the First National City Bank announced the closure of three of its branches because they are losing money.

Last week the First National Bank of Chicago (Jamaica) Ltd. sold its retail portfolio to the National Commercial Bank Jamaica Ltd. (formerly Barclays), the Bank of Montreal was sold to the government for a dollar and Chase Merchant Bankers Jamaica Ltd. announced it would cease operating banking facilities here on February 1, but a local person or firm could be appointed to deal with its international business.

When making the announcement of the closing of its branches at Newport West in Kingston, Ocho Rios, St. Ann and May Pen, Clarendon, during the next two months, Citibank said in a release yesterday: "This regrettable decision has been taken in view of the continued unprofitability of the three units during the last two years."

Less Than 8 Per Cent

The statement continued: "All affected staff, which make up less than eight per cent of the total workforce, have been offered alternative positions at Citibank's five other branches.

"All clients of the branches to be closed will be notified individually and will be given adequate opportunity to make arrangements to transfer their accounts to another Citibank branch or alternatively, to close them."

The closure of the three branches will bring to nine the number of bank branches closed since November last because of the continuing decline of the Jamaica economy.

First National Bank of Chicago (Jamaica) Ltd. in November closed its branch in Ocho Rios and sub-branch at the Ocho Rios Inter-Continental Hotel. On Tuesday, the bank closed its four retail branches in Kingston following its decision to cease retail banking in Jamaica and focus on wholesale banking.

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